Hafa Adai!

CNMI getting $17M more for water service lines replacement. PAGE 2
Advance Placement research course students present research. PAGE 3

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DOC unveils new Juvenile Detention Unit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After over 12 years without one, the Department of Corrections officially unveiled the CNMI's new Juvenile Detention Unit yesterday.

DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres officially unveiled during a special ceremony the CNMI's new JDU, or the Manhoben Center, in Susupe

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
From right, Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres, acting Gov. David M. Apatang, and House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) cut the ribbon officially unveiling the CNMI's new Juvenile Detention Unit or the Manhoben Center.

"This is the soft opening for the Manhoben Center or the Juvenile Detention Unit. The Manhoben Center was originally the old CNMI prison (before DOC was included in the consent decree which later established the new prison). When the new prison was constructed, the

See DOC on Page 4

'CNMI leaders must listen to the pleas of the hotels, businesses'

» Rep. Flores says there is a misconception about Hyatt's impending closure

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Manglona

Rep. Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan) underscored the need for CNMI leaders to listen to the plea of the remaining hotels and businesses to welcome back

See LEADERS on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
The winners of the Subway Sandwhich Challenge pose for a photo with Marianas Visitors Authority staff and Subway and Coca-Cola representatives last Saturday during the 25th Annual Taste of the Marianas Food Festival held at the American Memorial Park.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Subway Sandwich Challenge champ Jeremy Rother celebrates his win last Saturday during the 25th Annual Taste of the Marianas Food Festival held at the American Memorial Park.

Taste of The Marianas kicks off with Subway eating competition

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas Food Festival officially kicked off last weekend. The main event? A Subway eating competition where Public School System teacher Jeremy Rother came out on top.

See TASTE on Page 4

DPL provides more documents to support proposed new land lease to Coral Ocean Resort

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has provided more documents and information regarding DPL's proposed new 40-year land lease with the owner of Coral Ocean Resort, as requested by a Senate committee that is reviewing the proposed lease.

DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos sent the documents and information last Wednesday to Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), who chairs

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Saipan Humane Society announced its move to a new location situated in Garapan on Angaha Street, behind Salt & Barber.
PAGE 5

BUSINESS
Triple J presented a check for $6,500 to Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI from donations made through their employee elective payroll deduction program.
PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
Actor Bernard Hill, who delivered a rousing cry before leading his people into battle in "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" and went down with the ship as the captain in "Titanic," has died.
PAGE 11

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Local

CNMI getting $17M more for water service lines replacement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Kilili thanks DOI Secretary Haaland for 2025 budget's requested $1M increase for insular area capital improvement projects

The Commonwealth is receiving $17 million from U.S. President Joseph Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for replacement of water service lines, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan

Sablan in his *e-kilili* newsletter also thanked U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland for Biden's DOI 2025 budget's requested $1-million increase for insular area capital improvement projects.

On additional funding for water lines, the delegate said with the U.S. Environmental Protection's announcement on Thursday of the CNMI getting $17,050,000 more from Biden Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act, U. S. Public Law 117-58, this brings to $55.8 million in total funding to date for the Marianas water system.

He said water line funding from the landmark infrastructure law began in fiscal year 2022 and will continue—and increase—for two more years.

EPA said in its announcement that the $17 million from Biden's Investing in America agenda will help the CNMI identify and replace lead service lines, preventing exposure to lead in drinking water.

EPA said lead can cause a range of severe health impacts, including irreversible harm to brain development in children.

Biden has committed to replacing ever lead pipe in the country to protect children and families.

EPA Pacific Southwest regional administrator Martha Guzman said every single person living in the CNMI deserves access to clean, safe drinking water and a guarantee that they and their loved ones will be protected from lead contamination.

Acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Betty G. Terlaje said the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Lead Service Line Replacement funding is crucial to ensuring CNMI has safe and reliable drinking water, resilient to tropical weather and climate change impacts.

On the $1-million increase for insular area capital improvement projects, Haaland testified at a hearing on Biden's FY 2025 budget request for DOI before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources on Wednesday.

Sablan commended Haaland at the hearing for Biden's recommendation to increase or maintain funding levels for programs important for the Marianas, including Coral Reef Initiative, Technical Assistance Program, and Energizing Insular Communities grants.

Sablan said having a president who recognizes the needs of the insular areas helps tremendously in their efforts to bring more federal resources to the Marinas.

CNMI WIC Program revises income eligibility guidelines for FY2024

The CNMI WIC Programs Income Eligibility Guidelines have been updated effective May 1, 2024. WIC is available to the CNMI's pregnant, breastfeeding, postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of 5 who are at nutritional risk and who are at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. A pregnant woman is considered two family members or more if pregnant with multiples.

All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on gross income, meaning before taxes and other deductions. A person or family member who participates in other benefits program, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program or Medicaid automatically meet the income requirement to be a WIC participant.

What to bring to your WIC appointment—WIC requires all persons enrolling in the program to be present a long with their photo ID (driver's license, mayor's ID, passport), the child's identification (mayor's ID, birth certificate, crib card if no birth certificate yet), proof of income (30 days of recent check stubs, Medicaid card, NAP card), and a proof of address (like Commonwealth Utilities Corp. billing or map to residence).

The CNMI WIC Program

See WIC on Page 4

Family Members in Household	Yearly Household Income	Monthly Household Income	Twice-Monthly Household Income	Bi-Weekly Household Income	Weekly Household Income
1	$27,861	$2,322	$1,161	$1,072	$536
2	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
3	47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
4	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
7	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
8	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
Each Add'l Member Add	+$9,953	+$830	+$415	+$383	+$192

CNMI WIC income eligibility table by family size.

Advance Placement research course students present research

PSS

Saipan Southern High School AP class students Christopher Mauricio, Aleeza Castro, Tao Jin, Justin Afable, Simon Tang (all seated, front row), and Jared Borja (not in photo) presented before Public School System leaders led by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho (standing center) their research work. Joining the students in the presentation were advisers Dr. Dora Miura and Kadmiel Rey and principal Vince Dela Cruz.

PSS

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho stresses the importance of research study during his exchanges with the AP research course students Christopher Mauricio, Aleeza Castro, Tao Jin, Justin Afable and Simon Tang. Dr. Dora Miura and pincipal Dela Cruz listen. ➤

Saipan Southern High School students of the interdisciplinary research course Advance Placement presented last Friday their academic research work before key leaders of the Public School System, which was led by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho.

These AP research course class students—Christopher Mauricio (11th grade-early graduate), Aleeza Castro (11th grade-early graduate), Tao Jin (11th grade), Justin Afable (11th grade), Simon Tang (11th grade), and Jared Borja (11th grade)—have immersed themselves in research process and other related work, deeply exploring various academic topics and problems.

This is a one-year course. These students research work encompassed various subjects that includes the COVID-19 pandemic, theft and burglary on Saipan, mental health and trauma.

These students were accompanied by two teachers-advisers: Dr. Dora B. Miura, Pre-AP Geometry and AP Research; and Kadmiel Rey, Pre-AP English Language and AP Seminar during their meeting-presentation at the Office of the Commissioner of Education's conference room on Capital Hill.

Camacho lauded the AP students for their keen interest in research and exploration.

AP class students explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Through this exploration, the students will design, plan, and conduct a year-long research-based investigation to address a research question. ***(PR)***

PSS

SSHS principal Vince Dela Cruz, Board of Education teacher representative and AP research course adviser Dr. Dora B. Miura, and fellow adviser Kadmiel Rey with Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho.

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400087

SUBMISSION DATE: May 30, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Construction of Sidewalk Extension in Tanapag along Route 30."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **April 30, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of pay-ment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 17, 2024, 9:00 a.m. ChST.,** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. ChST., on May 24, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-012

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of heavy-duty vehicles for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-24-012, Supply and Delivery of Heavy-Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, ***no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 3, 2024*** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cuc-gov.org with copies to Steven Rodriguez, CUC's Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at rodolfo.rodriguez@cuc-gov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-018

CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE POTABLE WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEMS, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE FOR SAIPAN and ROTA

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply, Delivery, Installation & Maintenance of Calcium Hypochlorite potable water disinfection systems and supply & delivery of calcium hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-24-018, Calcium Hypochlorite Potable Water Disinfection Systems, Delivery, Installation, and Maintenance and Supply & Delivery of Calcium Hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota**" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) May 9, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 24, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, CUC Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager, via email address-rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NMHC lauds reintroduction of USDA Rural Housing Service loan programs

With the amended memorandum of understanding officially signed on April 24, 2024 by USDA Rural Housing Service and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., the CNMI now has another funding option to obtain decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing as well as for much needed home repair.

This renewed partnership between NMHC and RHS marks a new chapter in the NMHC's journey toward addressing the housing needs of the community and NMHC extends its appreciation to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Rural Housing Services administrator Joaquin Altoro, Hawaii State Office state director Chris Kanazawa, and Western Pacific area director Joe Diego for making this possible.

As with most federal housing programs, RHS' single-family housing loan program's main target is the low and very low-income residents of the CNMI.

"Since inception, NMHC has diligently worked to provide housing solutions for our community. However, limited funding and resources have hindered our ability to meet the growing demand for affordable housing."

"With RHS by our side, we have the opportunity to access much-needed funding and resources to tackle the housing shortage head-on. Through RHS's single-family housing loan programs, we can provide low and very low-income residents of the CNMI with the opportunity to secure affordable housing solutions" said NMHC board Marcie "Merced" M. Tomokane.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

LEADERS

From page 1

all Asian tourism markets that are willing to partner with the Commonwealth and send tourists here.

"These businesses have invested so much in our community and we cannot afford at this point to pivot away from those that can provide much needed stability to our tourism industry," said Manglona as he shared his views on the impending closure of Hyatt Regency Saipan during the House of Representatives special session last Thursday.

He said it's not hard to see that the current existing tourism markets are just not enough to sustain the Commonwealth.

Manglona said CNMI leaders must trust those that are tasked with safeguarding the borders.

He said the news about Hyatt's impending closure on June 30 "is troubling."

He thanked Hyatt for its contributions throughout the years to the Commonwealth.

"And honestly, my heart goes out to all those staff that may be losing their jobs as a result," the lawmaker said.

Manglona said quite frankly, there are so many businesses that are struggling to open at the moment and there are still so many of government employees on austerity.

He said since he is a member of the House minority, he is not privy to all the conversations and plans of the current administration.

Manglona, however, said from his observation over the past year, things have not seemed to get any better with the CNMI's economic situation.

"And to be honest, if all we're going to continue to do is blame the past, then we will never move ahead," he said.

Manglona said he lost his daughter last year and as heartbreaking as that experience was, he would not be sitting before his colleagues in the House chamber if he continued to focus and cling to the thought that he could have changed the past.

"To be honest, going through that experience has only made me a stronger person today. Thankfully, because of her love for me, I chose to look for the good in every situation, to try my best to focus on positivity and spreading love and light because life is too short to waste. And I will not waste another moment of my time not speaking my truth," he said.

Manglona said even though things may seem bleak at the moment for the islands, he still sees hope for the Commonwealth's future.

He said he looks at this as an opportunity to learn from the mistakes, not dwell on it as the CNMI rebuilds even better.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DOC

From page 1

Manhoben Center became the office for the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigations Bureau. When I first came into this role, one of the top priorities on my list was to find a new place for our juveniles as they have been housed in one of DOC's units for over 12 years. It took us some time to get here, it could have been a lot sooner but nonetheless we're here and I'm so proud and thankful for my outreach participants and the staff who got together to make this a reality. This was an 'all-hands-on-deck' project," he said.

Torres shared that the new JDU can house over 30 juveniles and is equipped with amenities like a kitchen and laundry room.

"There is an intake room, a laundry room, a kitchen, and male and female sections. The male's side has about 16 rooms while female side has over 14 rooms so the males' section is a little larger than the females' side," said Torres.

Torres shared that it's important to have a JDU in operation as there are laws and protocols that need to be adhered to when dealing with juvenile inmates.

"We were adhering to sight-and-sound laws which meant that if there are any juvenile movements, the whole DOC must shut down. Every now and then, we'll have three to four juveniles come in at DOC. Thankfully numbers are low. But at the end of the day, we need a dedicated facility. So, we were on the hunt, looking for possible areas and we came to the conclusion that this is the best area as its right here, next to DOC. I apologize to CIB and very grateful that they cooperated with us," he said.

Torres added that DOC wanted to get the new JDU up and running as soon as possible as DOC has many ongoing projects at the adult facility.

"Having a facility dedicated to the JDU would free up space in the adult facility and not only that, we will be able to establish the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment or RSAT program. We're doing all this in stages so to have the JDU, we're really excited to be here and getting it to where it's at now," he said.

Currently, DOC has no new juvenile inmates. Torres adds that it will be about another two weeks before the new JDU can house any juvenile inmates.

"Right now, we don't have any juvenile inmates but sometimes that fluctuates. Sometimes we'll have one, sometimes we'll have four, sometimes we'll have six. The facility is ready but it's not 100% ready. In case we have juveniles come in in the next week or so, we will still be housing them at the DOC. But we're about 97% completed. It's just a matter of getting the furniture in and getting Division of Youth Service here to see what programs can be implemented," he said.

Torres noted that non-profit agencies are currently looking into working with DOC to help provide programs for juvenile inmates.

"Other non-profit organizations are also reaching out to DOC to provide programs for JDU inmates like the Talaya Club, and more. That's forthcoming," he said.

DPL

From page 1

the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development, Programs & Gaming.

Magofna made the request after a meeting with Suwaso Corp. officials last April 19.

Santos said they acknowledge and value the committee's thorough approach to reviewing the proposed lease agreement.

Santos said they are committed to providing comprehensive and transparent information to support the committee's efforts.

Among the documents and information submitted to Magofna are a detailed status report of scholarship awards; copies of four amendments to the current land lease with Suwaso Corp.; a new land survey of the proposed land lease area; projected financial statements of potential revenue collections by the CNMI government; and detailed analysis regarding the $5-million value of constructing 100 new rooms.

DPL supports granting the new land lease to Suwaso Corp. to allow its Coral Ocean Resort's operation to continue for another 40 years, with an investment of over $30 million.

Under the proposal, Suwaso Corp. will be granted additional 15-year lease extension if the initial lease is granted by DPL and approved by the Legislature.

Last March 11, Santos submitted to the Legislature a packet of documents for the lawmakers' review and consideration of Suwaso's request to renew its land lease.

Santos said as their records show, Suwaso has been compliant with the provisions of the lease and has kept its account current.

Suwaso's 15-year extension from the original land lease granted in 1986 will expire in 2026.

Jury trial of officer whose gun was used in the shooting of a minor begins today

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The jury trial of a police officer whose service firearm was allegedly used in the Kagman shooting that saw a minor being shot in the face is set to appear in court today as his jury trial begins.

Raymond Lizama Saralu, the police officer whose service firearm was allegedly used in the Kagman shooting that saw a minor being shot in the face, is set to appear before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho today for his jury trial.

Saralu's trial was initially set for January 2024.

However, because the victim in the case had to undergo extensive surgery, the trial was pushed back.

Saralu, 27, is facing six charges connected to his alleged failure to secure his police firearm properly, which police said resulted in an accidental discharge of the weapon that injured a 7-year-old child on May 21, 2023.

Saralu was also charged with one count of obstructing justice for removing his government-issued firearm, which was allegedly the actual gun used in the shooting, and replacing it with his personal firearm.

Each of the five counts is punishable by a fine of $1,000 and imprisonment of not more than 180 days, or both.

Saralu also faces one count of the storage of firearms involving his government-issued firearm, Glock 19 Gen5 9mm, which caused serious bodily injury to the minor victim. The offense is punishable by a $5,000 fine, and/or five years' imprisonment.

The obstructing justice charge against Saralu is punishable by one-year imprisonment and a fine of $1,000, or both.

TASTE

From page 1

Last Saturday, the Marianas Visitors Authority officially opened the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas Food Festival to the public which will be held every Saturday throughout the month of May.

During the opening ceremony, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said this year's festivities have been made more special as joining the celebration are the first tourists aboard the Hong Kong Airlines' inaugural flight back to Saipan.

"May is our tourism month and what better way to celebrate it than here, as locals and visitors at the Taste. This time last year, we were celebrating with athletes of the Oceania Cup and the Badminton tournaments, but this year, we have here our first visitors from Hong Kong since the pandemic," he said.

Concepcion recognized his team and MVA partners for the work and support they put into 25 successful years of the Taste of the Marianas.

"Kudos to the MVA team and our partners at HANMI, and all our stakeholders for the last 25 years," he said.

Following the opening ceremony, at around 7pm last Saturday, MVA hosted the Subway Sandwich Challenge. Essentially what the challenge was was 10 individuals were given one hour to finish five footlong Subway sandwiches.

The winner of the last Saturday's competition was Public School System teacher Jeremy Rother who, in the nick of time, managed to scarf down the remainder of his sandwich deeming him the champion of the challenge.

Coming in at a close second was Bob Liu who had about one footlong left at the end of the one-hour mark followed by Michael Ma Ye who had about one footlong and a half left at the end of the hour.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

WIC

From page 2

encourages community members to call the clinic at (670) 664-4084 to make appointment and see if they qualify.

For more information about the CNMI WIC Program or other CHCC programs, follow @cnmichcc and @cnmiwic on Facebook, Instagram, and X; visit https://www.chcc.health; or call (670) 234-8950.

To report fraud or to make a complaint use our online complaint form at https://complainttracking.mycnmiwic.com/. ***(PR)***

SHS relocates and improves efficiency, expands education

Saipan Humane Society announced its move to a new location situated in Garapan on Angaha Street, behind Salt & Barber. This move has allowed the organization to expand and offer more efficient care to pets—for example, sick animals can be seen in individual exam rooms.

The relocation to a new premises does not signify the end of SHS' partnership with the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program though.

"We owe much of our success to the support of DCP. They stood by us even before SHS existed," said SHS board president Lauren Cabrera.

Established in February 2023, SHS initially prioritized spay/neuter accessibility. However, following the sudden closure of the Saipan Cares for Animals clinic that May, SHS promptly redirected its efforts toward ensuring continued access to animal healthcare for CNMI residents. With no resident veterinarian on island, this posed significant challenges. Financial sustainability proved difficult, given the economic difficulties facing the CNMI. Additionally, sourcing supplies posed a challenge due to the region's remoteness. Despite these hurdles, SHS has managed to thrive and aims to establish itself as a sustainable clinic serving the community for years to come. Much of the clinic's success can be attributed to generous donations, support from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, and help from Banfield Foundation, which offered start-up support to get the new clinic location off the ground.

SHS

Saipan Humane Society clinic director Ruby Ma sees a patient in an exam room.

Appointments

The clinic is transitioning toward an appointment-centered approach. Guadalupe Attao, the newly appointed executive director of SHS, explains, "By transitioning to appointments, our aim is to enhance efficiency in care provision. Through scheduling, we can stagger patient visits throughout the day, minimizing wait times for our clients."

SHS

Established in February 2023, Saipan Humane Society initially prioritized spay/neuter accessibility.

Education

SHS remains committed to staff development and continuing education, ensuring that its personnel receive the necessary training to deliver optimal care to pets. Attao and clinic director Ruby Ma will attend the national Animal Care Expo in San Antonio, Texas this May, courtesy of a scholarship from Humane Society International. This event brings together animal welfare professionals from across the nation for educational workshops, learning labs, and networking opportunities. Consequently, SHS anticipates being short-staffed during May and encourages clients to schedule appointments to facilitate staff planning. However, emergency walk-ins will still be accommodated.

In another development, Ma has been accepted into Purdue University's Veterinary Nursing program, the leading program of its kind in the country. She will complete most of her studies online, attending clinical learning experiences off-island. Additionally, SHS is hosting two interns from the Northern Marianas College through Project PROA, which aims to open opportunities for students in the community to explore careers in animal health.

SHS

Saipan Humane Society board president Lauren Cabrera cuddles Mr. Scruff on the clinic porch.

"Just as in human hospitals, veterinary facilities should encompass a range of roles including providers, nurses, assistants, and more," states Cabrera. "It is hard to recruit people to live in the CNMI. We need to train people who are already here".

For updates on the weekly clinic schedule, a clinic map, or to make appointments, visit www.saipanhumanesociety.org. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF INTENT TO VOLUNTARILY DISSOLVE A CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a Notice of Intent to dissolve CKS INTERNATIONAL (SAIPAN), INC., will take effect on May 31, 2024. A Corporation with its registered office in Garapan, Saipan, will deliver the dissolution to the Registrar of corporation for filing in accordance with the CNMI code.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

May 07, 2024

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after May 24, 2024, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Construction of generator house and ongoing maintenance of generator	Construction of a generator house for installation of and ongoing maintenance of a generator for **Guma' Esperansa**	Recipient location: Dandan, Saipan **Original Location for project:** Confidential	$50,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by **May 24, 2024, 4:30 p.m.,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the **U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, Honolulu Field Office, 1003 Bishop Street, Suite 2100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813** and CPDHonolulu@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
David M. Apatang
Acting Governor, CNMI

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 91

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Out of chances: Letting Donald Trump skate is contempt for justice

Acting Manhattan state Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan held Donald Trump in contempt for his violations of a gag order in his criminal hush money case. The penalty? A paltry $9,000. Nonetheless, the judge cautioned the former president that continued violations might result in "incarceratory punishment," just as they might for any other defendant. We hope he's not bluffing.

The idea that slapping the cuffs on would somehow help Trump, electorally and with his efforts to delegitimize the process that is attempting to at long last hold him accountable, is bunk. Whatever happens, Trump will claim he's being politically persecuted, that this trial is an infringement not only on his rights but on the country's own free elections, interfering as it is with one of the major-party candidates.

Setting aside the inanity of planting that flag in the ground while simultaneously under well-evidenced indictment for multiple efforts to reverse the 2020 election, let's think through the implications that flow from that idea.

If the existing mechanisms of accountability cannot constrain the former president, then we are saying, in effect, that he cannot be held accountable. We know exactly what Trump plans to do with this immunity; in a recent series of interviews with Time, Trump and his closest allies describe in detail schemes to finally vanquish American democracy, unconstrained by the institutional guardrails that barely held last time around.

The president and his ready sycophants would deploy the military in American cities, jail political opponents (without basis, something that cannot in any reasonable way be said about Trump), bend subsequent elections to his will, disengage from international allies, crack down on speech and generally follow the authoritarian playbook. None of that rests on wild speculation or projection—these are plain as day plans, as readily laid out by Trump himself.

When things get to that stage, the option of actually holding him accountable begins to disappear altogether. Let us repeat: consequences need to come now, because there might not be a later.

Trump certainly hopes to use the powers of the presidency to shield himself from accountability, perhaps forever. Yet simply taking the opposite stance, showing that he's not untouchable and that he can be brought to justice, might go a long way towards puncturing the Trump phenomenon, which has always been more artifice than anything.

Trump has, for all the bluster, never held majority support in the United States. Some subset of his hard-core fans will never abandon him, but for many, it is the sense that he can stick it to the authorities, that despite the setbacks he'll sidestep and eventually subjugate the system, that holds appeal. If Trump can tell judges and prosecutors to go to hell and laugh at their rules, he's doing what I wish I could, the thinking goes.

If the veneer starts cracking—if his flimsy attempt at a civil bond surety fails and his buildings start to be seized, if his goading of Merchan results in real, significant consequences—then the magic will quickly dissipate. The man will be left standing with all he has ever had: his narcissism, his entitlement and his steadfast conviction that people will give him what he wants. This time he'll be wrong.

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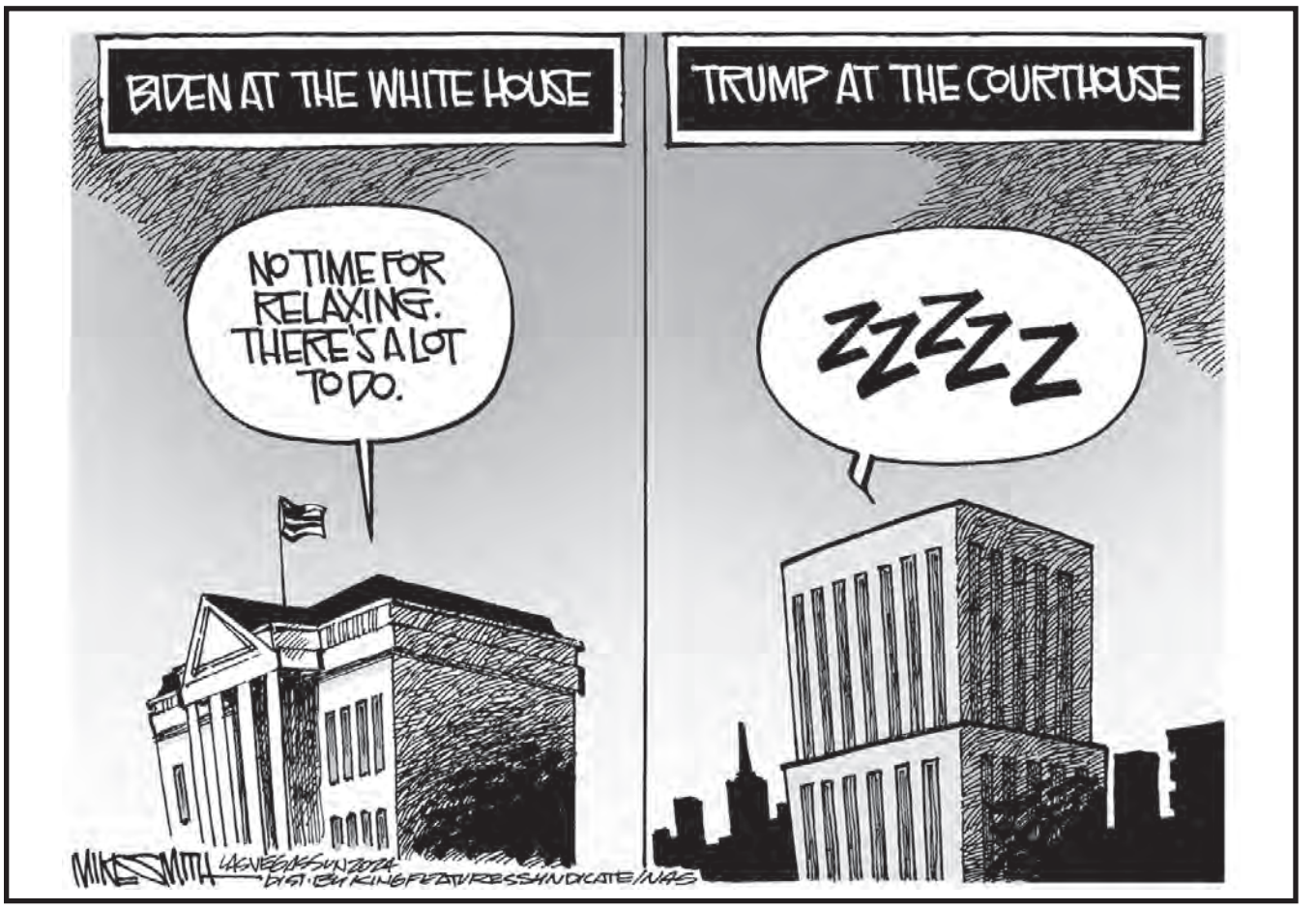
BIDEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE
NO TIME FOR RELAXING. THERE'S A LOT TO DO.
TRUMP AT THE COURTHOUSE
ZZZZZ
MIKE SMITH LASVEGASSUN 2024 DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.

The bird flu outbreak has more questions than answers

By LISA JARVIS
Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of Chemical & Engineering News.

As the magnitude of the bird flu outbreak in cattle becomes clearer, so does the need to quickly get a firmer grip on some basic facts. Namely, how far this H5N1 virus has spread, how it is spreading, and where this situation is likely to go next. The COVID-weary public also wants to know whether humans are at risk.

Public agencies must move faster and collaborate more efficiently to answer some of those unknowns. After all, this is a pathogen that has loomed large in the minds of infectious disease experts for its potential to cause a deadly human pandemic.

"It's fair to say for every question we've had answered in the last month, we have 10 to 15 new questions," says Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy in Minnesota.

Among the most essential: Just how widespread is this outbreak?

The seriousness of the situation escalated after scientists found viral fragments in milk on grocery store shelves—including in states that had not reported infected herds. The Food and Drug Administration eventually said it had detected H5N1 fragments in one out of every five of the commercial milk samples it tested.

That suggests the virus has been circulating in cows longer and more easily than anyone realized. Genetic sleuths have traced the outbreak back to a likely spillover event in late 2023, when a wild bird may have infected a cow on a farm.

Widespread testing is essential to understanding the outbreak's true scope—and to have any hope of containing it. But that's easier said than done. Consider that tens of thousands of cows are being moved around the country any given week, says Keith Poulsen, Director of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "We can't test them all, so we need to test where it's going to be logistically easy to accomplish."

The US Department of Agriculture recently said cows could not be moved between states without a negative H5N1 test, and expanded the amount of testing it will pay for. But the agency is still only requiring farms to test a few dozen cows out of each group, an approach that is not sufficient to stop the spread.

Paulsen and others are working on methods to test bulk milk, but need to ensure they are sensitive enough to pick up even one infected cow out of a pool of milk from as many as two thousand. Because even asymptomatic cows seem to be shedding so much virus in their milk, he thinks that's feasible.

Which leads us to another seemingly simple, yet still elusive question: How exactly is the virus spreading among cows?

On a recent call with state public health officials, USDA Chief Veterinary Officer Rosemary Sifford noted that transmission is mostly occurring within cows who are lactating, but it's unclear if the spread primarily is happening through the milking process itself or because a cow with a high viral load in their milk is passing it onto others. The USDA has said that anything that comes in contact with milk, whether that's a human, another animal, a vehicle or fomites, could spread the virus and that it's likely occurring in more than one way.

So far, the virus really seems to be largely in the mammary glands, though the USDA has found evidence of the virus in the respiratory tract of one cow (though it's unclear how many nasal swabs are being performed). The agency is currently conducting transmission studies in cattle that could inform mitigation efforts.

Of course, everyone is wondering what the coming weeks and months will look like—for herds, for our food supply, for other livestock and, of course, for humans.

To help answer that, attention should focus on the Texas panhandle, where the outbreak was first detected. Those herds might provide important clues about what the coming months could look like. "Maybe the simplest question is: When a herd 'recovers,' what does it mean?" asks Richard Webby, a specialist in influenza at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

We need to know whether cows generate sufficient immunity to ward off another infection, how long that immunity might last, and how widespread that immunity might be. That will mean looking for antibodies to the virus in herds around the country, regardless of whether there was a known outbreak there. Clarity on immunity will help shape future mitigation and monitoring efforts.

Which leads us to the questions most relevant to the general public: Am I safe?

Let's start with the food supply. The FDA's tests have shown pasteurized milk is safe to drink. (Raw milk, on the other hand, should be absolutely avoided.) And the USDA, which maintains the meat supply is safe, nevertheless is currently conducting tests of both ground beef on grocery shelves and at processing facilities, to understand whether evidence of the virus exists there, too. The agency is also looking at what happens to meat infected in a lab and then cooked at different temperatures.

Then there's the worry of infection. Osterholm, who has been following H5N1 for nearly three decades now, reiterates that despite this new twist of widespread infections in cows, the risk to humans remains low. But "that should not leave us complacent,"

See FLU on Page 7

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It's time for a change: Centering community voices for ocean decision-making

By SHEILA BABAUTA, AYANA MELVIN, AND MEHAK ARORA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Sheila Babauta works for the Friends of the Mariana Trench on Saipan, CNMI. Ayana Melvan works for Aquarium Conservation Partnership in Rhode Island, USA. Mehak Arora works for Earth Echo International in Texas, USA.

While the three of us come from different communities and backgrounds, as women of color working in ocean advocacy we are all frustrated with the status quo of exploiting the ocean without replenishing it. Our communities have a long history of caring for the ocean—and the shared experience of being cut off from it.

We see harmful barriers across American waters firsthand. In the Mariana Islands, the U.S. military continues to carry out destructive training and testing activities on land and nearby waters supporting its title of largest fossil fuel consumer in the world. The paid entry to Misquamicut Beach in Rhode Island is a reminder that access to the coastline can be limited for anyone who is lower income, Black, Indigenous, and from other communities of color. Our country's inland education often fails to acknowledge the fact that everyone is connected to the coast.

We're working to steward our shared waters and increase access to them, but we need to see more systemic change to address the systemic problems of colonialism and racism. We have been left out of ocean and environmental policy decisions that directly impact our lives. We want a seat at the table, with equal decision-making power.

Last week, we participated in the international Our Ocean Conference, where global leaders set an agenda for the water we're all dependent on for food, for spiritual practices, for the oxygen we breathe, for the joy of a beach day. But it's a conference where the decision-making has already happened—the commitments and announcements made had already been debated and resolved in other rooms, by other people.

While we were encouraged by several international commitments—such as Greece's commitment to ban bottom trawling in all of its marine protected areas by 2030—we were left disappointed in the wake of commitments from the U.S. The U.S. announced $508 million in commitments to protect our ocean. Of that amount, approximately $37.6 million went toward the advancement of MPAs though none focused on area-based protections. For comparison, at the 2023 Our Ocean Conference in Panama, the U.S delegation announced $6 billion in commitments to address threats to our ocean, doubling their pledges from 2022. Protecting nature allows it to thrive and allowing nature to thrive allows people to thrive. There should be more and more effectively managed marine protected areas to move the world toward the necessary goal of protecting 30% of the world's waters by 2030—a goal that Pacific Island leaders initially proposed that has now been adopted by Western governments.

Historically, though, conservation has been used as a tool of colonialism. We have the opportunity to use the laws of conservation to enshrine Indigenous practices and make marine spaces more accessible for everyone—if we rethink how government agencies can share power with local communities. Who was part of the decision-making to identify where the boundary lines are drawn? Who has the power to manage them once they are established?

We hope that this decade is full of announcements about new areas of the ocean that will be safe from oil and gas exploration, deep sea mining, overfishing, and other harms facilitated by government approval. Our voices—from communities of color—must be a part of the decision-making process from the beginning. We want to see power redistributed to community leaders, not one person representing a diversity category. From this starting point, it will be possible to identify where and how to protect coastal and ocean waters that don't reinforce harmful power structures.

In the past, monument boundaries have made traditional fishing practices the subject of debate when they could have been thoughtfully enshrined from the beginning. Marine sanctuaries and monuments are sites for scientific research and exploration, but without intentional planning they default to locations for parachute science. They should be an opportunity to bring young, local scientists into the field and establish themselves as experts on their home environment.

We know that redistributing power can work: the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument now follows traditional management practices created by Native Hawaiians, who have equal power to federal agencies in monument decision-making.

The Biden Administration has put forward plenty of ocean policies including an entire strategy focused on embedding a justice approach into federal decision-making. It calls for developing a diverse, equitable, and inclusive ocean workforce and applying Indigenous knowledge to federal research. It's time to move these ideas off the page, and quickly.

These aren't new asks, but they are more urgent than ever. Last year set global records for ocean surface temperature and sea level rise. Climate change isn't just on the horizon: it's here, and it's supercharging the typhoons that strike the Mariana Islands and the hurricanes that flood Louisiana.

This Our Ocean Conference, the Biden Administration missed a critical opportunity to follow through on prior promises; center and celebrate Indigenous, Black, and local community efforts; and position the U.S. as a leader in ocean protection. The Mariana Trench Marine Monument was created 15 years ago and still doesn't have the planning documents needed to actually manage the site. The plan should center Indigenous leadership in the Marianas and legally establish co-management of the monument. The U.S. remains one of the few countries in the world that hasn't signed onto the United Nations Global Plastic Treaty.

And there are community-led proposals for new and expanded marine protected areas that the Biden Administration could act on: the Chumash Heritage site is waiting on designation as a national marine sanctuary. The Gullah-Geechee Nation has proposed a series of projects to buffer their Atlantic coastline home while protecting local foodways and traditions.

The current harm to the ocean—the overfishing, the coral bleaching, the plastic pollution—is the result of decisions made by people, including government leaders who attended this global conference. Many have chosen inaction as a decision.

Our reciprocal relationship with the ocean falls apart when we see it as a resource to extract from instead of the site of local practices, traditions, and benefits. To rearrange our priorities, it's time for new perspectives, new urgency, and new ambition to guide marine conservation.

FLU

From page 6

he says. "All can change in a heartbeat."

Some scientists are working behind the scenes to prepare in case the virus adapts to infect humans. So far, the same antivirals used for the seasonal flu, such as Tamiflu, seem likely to work against H5N1. Meanwhile, two vaccine candidates against H5N1 seem somewhat effective against viral samples taken from infected cows, and enough raw materials exist to make limited doses if needed.

But the caveats are many. For example, our flu treatments aren't great to begin with—to be effective, they must be taken within a very short window of developing symptoms. And there's reason to worry that our existing vaccines might be far less helpful if the virus adapted to infect people. Researchers are working on newer antivirals and vaccine strategies, but those efforts are nascent and wouldn't do much for us if the situation suddenly took a more serious turn.

It's important to keep pushing for answers and transparency. The stakes are too high to let the questions keep piling up.

Marginalizing Marjorie Taylor Greene, leader of the 'Chaos Caucus'

By KEVIN IGOE
The Baltimore Sun

Kevin Igoe is the former deputy chief of staff of the Republican National Committee and former executive director of the Maryland Republican Party. He was a consultant to the successful 2014 campaign of Larry Hogan for governor and served as chief of staff of the Maryland Department of Budget and Management from 2015 to 2023.

As the former Deputy Chief of Staff of the Republican National Committee when Republicans gained 63 House seats to establish a governing majority, I know something about winning elections. Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, the Georgia Republican, does not.

Conservatives who believe she does are sleepwalking through their civic life and enabling America's leftward drift. So, to be blunt, it is time for those conservatives to wake up! Republicans need to come back to the concerns of real Americans. What matters is not the move to vacate, in congressional parlance. What matters is the price of the weekly grocery bill.

The Republican Party that I love and have spent my life working on behalf of, is in danger of being viewed by a significant number of flag-loving Americans as a bunch of spoiled immature brats who would rather argue among themselves than defeat their real opponents in political and policy debate.

Recently, Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, who has won elections in a purple state, said that Greene "is dragging our brand down." Tillis went on to call Greene "uninformed" and a "total waste of time." U.S. Representative Marc Molinaro, a New York Republican who represents a swing district, said that Greene's political theater must "come to an end."

There is a prerequisite to making public policy. It is called winning elections. In today's America, winning elections does not start in the House Republican caucus. In fact, in a large part of America, winning elections ends there. The constant bickering, the infighting, the votes against moving legislation to the next level of the legislative process are self-defeating exercises that a huge majority of real Americans do not understand and care about even less. Now, Greene threatens to throw onto the political wreckage another grenade in the form of a vote to remove the conservative Republican Speaker of the House.

Marjorie Taylor Greene may be a clickbait leader in the basement of the Cannon House Office Building. However, she and her ilk are totally irrelevant in the produce and meat aisles of the Safeways, Wegmans, Giants, Publixes and Albertsons across the American heartland.

There is a peace-and-quiet vote out there, and the Chaos Caucus, led by Marjorie Taylor Greene, is driving it away from all Republicans, up and down the ballot.

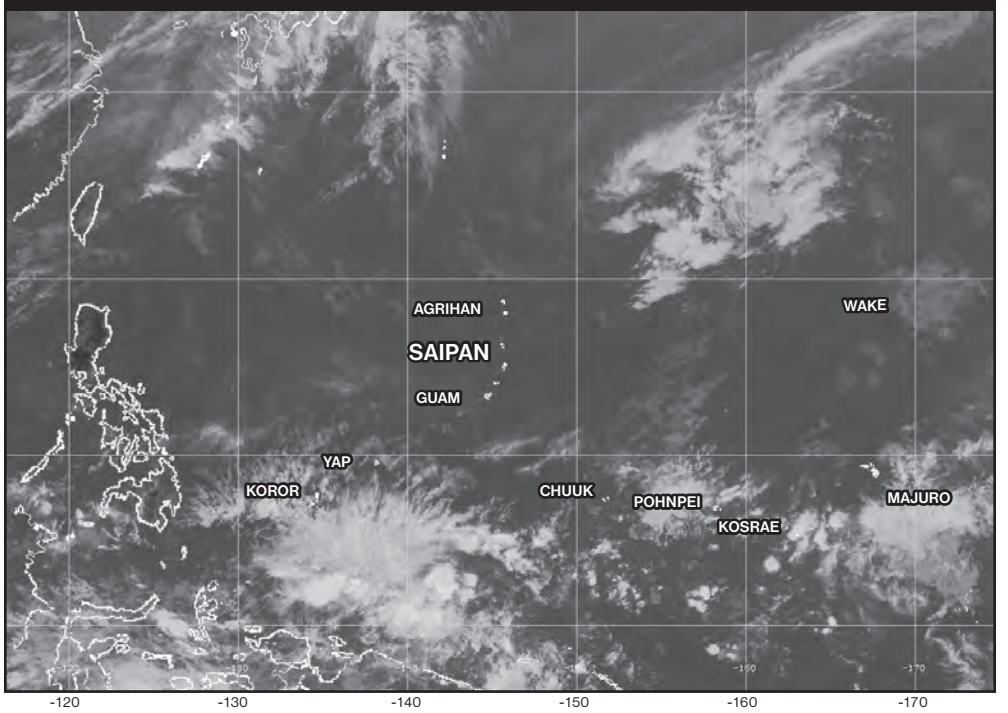
Governing is about solving problems for hard-working American families. Until Republicans seize control of their messaging from Marjorie Taylor Greene and her amigos, including U.S. Representative Matt Gaetz of Florida, my beloved conservative Republican philosophy will remain a minority view subject to self-inflicted ridicule by much of America. The Republican Party, and the conservative movement, will be better off when MTG comes to mean "Marginalizing Taylor Greene."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with a 10 percent chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
87° 77°	86° 77°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:40 AM MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Marianas has mostly clear skies, with light to gentle winds. Altimetry shows combined seas of 4 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	89° / 79°
Palau	Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Sunny	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	83° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	83° / 79°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:47 AM	5:43 PM	-
Wednesday	5:33 AM	6:45 PM	-
Thursday	6:22 AM	7:49 PM	-
Friday	7:16 AM	8:52 PM	-
Saturday	8:14 AM	9:53 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 55°
Beijing	Fair	78° / 60°
Hong Kong	Fair	85° / 74°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	83° / 70°
London	Sunny	64° / 45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	91° / 68°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95° / 82°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	63° / 48°
Miami	Sunny	84° / 73°
New York	Cloudy	54° / 49°
Osaka	Cloudy	75° / 65°
Paris	Sunny	70° / 52°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	69° / 61°
Rome	Sunny	70° / 48°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	81° / 52°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	62° / 51°
Seoul	Cloudy	66° / 57°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 67°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	72° / 53°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:33 AM	Low Tide	0.81
6:18 AM	High Tide	2.16
1:15 PM	Low Tide	-0.04
7:49 PM	High Tide	2.06

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 28, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

USCGC *FREDERICK HATCH*:

A beacon of excellence and diplomacy in the Pacific

In January 2024, the Surface Navy Association National Symposium in Washington, D.C., was marked by the commendation of the USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) crew as the recipient of the prestigious 2023 Hopley Yeaton Cutter Excellence Award (Small). This accolade recognizes operational efficiency and pays tribute to the spirit of pioneering leadership and maritime governance that defines the U.S. Coast Guard.

USCG

A portion of the crew of the USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) stands for a photo on March 14, 2024, in Santa Rita, Guam. In January 2024, the Surface Navy Association National Symposium in Washington, D.C., was marked by the commendation of the USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) crew as the recipient of the prestigious 2023 Hopley Yeaton Cutter Excellence Award (Small). This accolade recognizes operational efficiency and pays tribute to the spirit of pioneering leadership and maritime governance that defines the U.S. Coast Guard.

"I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of the *Frederick Hatch* crew that led to our success over the past year and the cutter's subsequent selection for this award. They pushed the boundaries of what is possible for Fast Response Cutters and Oceania operations while overcoming significant challenges, and their influence across the region and Service cannot be overstated. It was an honor to accept the award alongside them, as the camaraderie and teamwork they have developed make *Frederick Hatch* a great place to work every day," said Lt. Patrick Dreiss, commanding officer of USCGC *Frederick Hatch*.

The award, named after Hopley Yeaton, the first officer commissioned into the Revenue under the Constitution Marine by George Washington, reflects a deep-rooted legacy. Yeaton, known as the "Father of the Coast Guard," was instrumental in setting standards for the Revenue Cutter Service, enforcing maritime laws, and combating smuggling along the New England coast. His contributions laid the groundwork for today's Coast Guard's values and mission that continue to expand in the Pacific.

"Over the years, I've seen our missions expand dramatically, but one thing remains constant—the enduring relationships we've built. These connections are the backbone of our operational success and the heart of our community engagement," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam.

The *Frederick Hatch*: A sentinel of safety and cooperation

Named for Frederick Hatch, a distinguished surfman and lighthouse keeper who twice received the Gold Life Saving Medal, the cutter continues his legacy of valor and service. The *Frederick Hatch* plays a critical role in regional security, environmental protection, and fostering international cooperation in the Pacific.

In 2023, the *Frederick Hatch* crew was pivotal in exercising new bilateral agreements with the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau, enhancing maritime law enforcement capabilities without requiring a shiprider to be physically present. This historic move streamlined operations, increasing reach in a vast area with limited enforcement assets and fortified trust and collaboration with Pacific Island nations.

"*Hatch*'s selection for this award, I think, also reflects the Coast Guard's commitment to Micronesia and our Pacific Island partners we work with regularly," said Dreiss. "Cutters across the world are doing important work every day, and selecting a Guam-based FRC for this award shows how impactful the service views the connection with our great partners across the COFA states, Melanesia, and even to the Philippines."

Diplomacy and community engagement: Beyond maritime patrols

The *Frederick Hatch*'s missions extend well beyond enforcement; they are also acts of diplomacy and community outreach. The cutter's first visit to Tacloban, Leyte, was the first for a U.S. Coast Guard vessel since World War II, and engagements during Operation Rematau in the waters and ports of the Marianas and the Compact of Free Association nations underline the Coast Guard's role as a bridge between cultures and peoples.

"By championing multilateralism and proactive diplomacy, the USCC *Frederick Hatch* and all our crews play a pivotal role in forging paths of peace and partnership across the Pacific, thereby enhancing regional stability and nurturing enduring friendships," said Simmons.

The period of the award for *Frederick Hatch* covers versatile operations in fiscal year 2023, from pioneering the first patrols post-COVID across Micronesia to the heroic fishing vessel Ocean Galaxy medevac and the challenging tow of the motor vessel Mama Loling north of Saipan, and of course their role leading the three Guam-based Fast Response Cutters through storm avoidance in Yap and back to Guam for local response following Super Typhoon Mawar. Their continuous engagement in cultural and humanitarian missions has been as robust in fiscal year 2024, like participating in Pika Fest and Yap Day and delivering vital supplies to Ulithi Atoll, solidifying their stature as exemplary ambassadors of goodwill and cooperation in the Pacific.

"Every visit to another island creates lasting memories for the crew and they're especially enjoyable visiting during cultural events. It says a lot about the crew of the cutter that they are not only willing to take their limited liberty time in port to participate but also want to be a part of these events and learn more about each unique culture by getting involved, whether it's competing in the Tinian Hot Pepper Eating Contest or playing sports with a local elementary school. These visits are an important part of what we do here, and having a crew ready to answer the call in port after a long day underway highlights another important area of *Hatch*'s success," said Dreiss.

Strategic impact and future endeavors

The crew's operations have significant strategic implications. Showing presence, enforcing regulations, combating illegal activities, and providing regional humanitarian support help maintain stability and order in the vast Pacific waters. These efforts support the U.S. strategic objective of fostering a Pacific characterized by sovereignty, security, and prosperity.

"The Pacific is not just a region of vast waters and scattered islands; it's a vibrant community of shared futures. Our role extends beyond enforcement and aid; it's fundamentally about contributing to a stable, prosperous, and secure Pacific," said Simmons.

As the *Frederick Hatch* and its crew continue their vigilant watch over the Pacific alongside their sister ships, they carry forward the legacy of Hopley Yeaton and Frederick Hatch, safeguarding maritime interests while nurturing the bonds that hold the fabric of the Pacific community together.

Conclusion

The USCGC *Frederick Hatch*'s receipt of the Hopley Yeaton Cutter Excellence Award is a testament to their exemplary service and dedication. It highlights the enduring spirit of the Coast Guard's mission—securing, protecting, and nurturing relationships across the Blue Pacific. As they sail forward, their voyages will continue to embody the ethos of leadership, courage, and community that are the hallmarks of the U.S. Coast Guard.

"The increase in assets and the expansion of our roles and missions here in the Pacific comes with a greater responsibility to foster and maintain the trust we've built. Our commitment is not just for the present; it is a continued pledge for a peaceful and cooperative future," said Simmons. ***(PR)***

Radewagen emphasizes fishing industry to DOI's Haaland

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) emphasized the importance of American Samoa's fishing industry to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland in a hearing Wednesday in the Natural Resources Committee, including the jeopardy that a massive new marine sanctuary could cause. She pointed out that the administration has not provided a status update on the marine sanctuary since NOAA held meetings last September, and asked for the Biden administration to provide their economic plan for the territory if their major new limits on fishing were to lead to the cannery closing.

"American Samoa's first cannery many decades ago was built with support from a DOI initiative to kickstart our economy. Now StarKist is second only to the local government as an employer," said Radewagen. "Unfortunately, our fishing industry and our self-sufficiency is now under existential pressure from overzealous and short-sighted green politics. As part of President Biden's 30X30 initiative, the administration has a pending marine sanctuary proposal covering the area around the Pacific Remote Marine Island Monument. The monument was already doubled in size by the Obama administration, and with this expansion, 777,000 square miles of tuna fishing grounds which supply our cannery will be subject to multiple layers of environmental oversight. To put that in perspective, that is over four times the size of California. Our natural resources are already protected under the Magnuson Stevens Act and adding another layer of bureaucracy adds no further protection. Expanding the monuments without allowing for commercial fishing will devastate American Samoa's economy," Radewagen warned.

The congresswoman also highlighted important areas of cooperation and support from the department, thanking the Secretary for efforts by the Office of Insular Affairs in general, and for the specific support and testimony of assistant secretary Carmen G. Cantor and deputy assistant secretary Keone Nakoa on behalf of Amata's bill, H.R. 6062, which would provide the people of the territory more self-determination in amending the American Samoa constitution.

Amata also discussed fiscal year 2025 proposal for the American Samoa Operations Account, noting that "the stated goal of OIA's assistance to the territories is to offset the difficulties caused by our geographic and economic isolation and encourage our island's eventual self-sufficiency."

"I will be requesting report language directing no less than $3 million from the operations account be allocated to the American Samoa Community College," Radewagen continued.

Haaland assured of her dedication to oversight responsibility for funding, and her desire to work with the territory on economic concerns.

Radewagen's statement concluded, "The territories do not want to be a charity case, and we will invest in education and our island's future leaders and business owners. We will work to make every dollar count, and we need Interior to ensure the money is going where it needs to go. However, I assure you that if the fishing industry fails in American Samoa, the long-term cost to the federal government will increase exponentially. Instead of our little $28 million buffer account, the territory will instead require hundreds of millions in federal assistance as our island drops even further below the poverty line."

This week, the House also passed the following bills:

■ H.R. 7987 – Plain Language in Contracting Act. The bill ensures that federal contracting opportunities are written in plain language, making it easier for small businesses to secure government contracts.

■ H.R. 4755 – Privacy Enhancing Technology Research Act. The bill directs the National Science Foundation to conduct fundamental privacy research to mitigate individuals' privacy risks in data sets while maintaining fairness, accuracy, and efficiency. The bill supports research, workforce development, standard setting, and government coordination for the development of privacy.

■ H.R. 6093 – Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2023. The bill improves NOAA's weather research, and supports improvements in weather forecasting and prediction. It reauthorizes many of the activities and programs established by the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 and addresses research gaps identified since. ***(PR)***

Business

Triple J 'Workplace Giving Program' doubles its donation to Make-a-Wish Guam & CNMI chapter

TRIPLE J

Representatives from Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI, seated from left to right, Errol Lee, board member; Kris Lujan, vice chairperson; Eric Tydingco, president and CEO; Joyce Crisostomo, board member; and Jason Miyashita, board chair, are presented a check for $6,500 from Triple J executives Jay Jones, senior VP; Dan Murrell, senior VP; Chris Duenas, CFO; Edgar Aguilar, tax director; along with Yolanda Padrones, director of Human Resources, and some of the 51 employees who take part in Triple J's Workplace Giving Program.

Triple J presented a check for $6,500 to Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI from donations made through their employee elective payroll deduction program. This marks a significant increase from last year's contribution, reflecting Triple J's commitment to supporting its community.

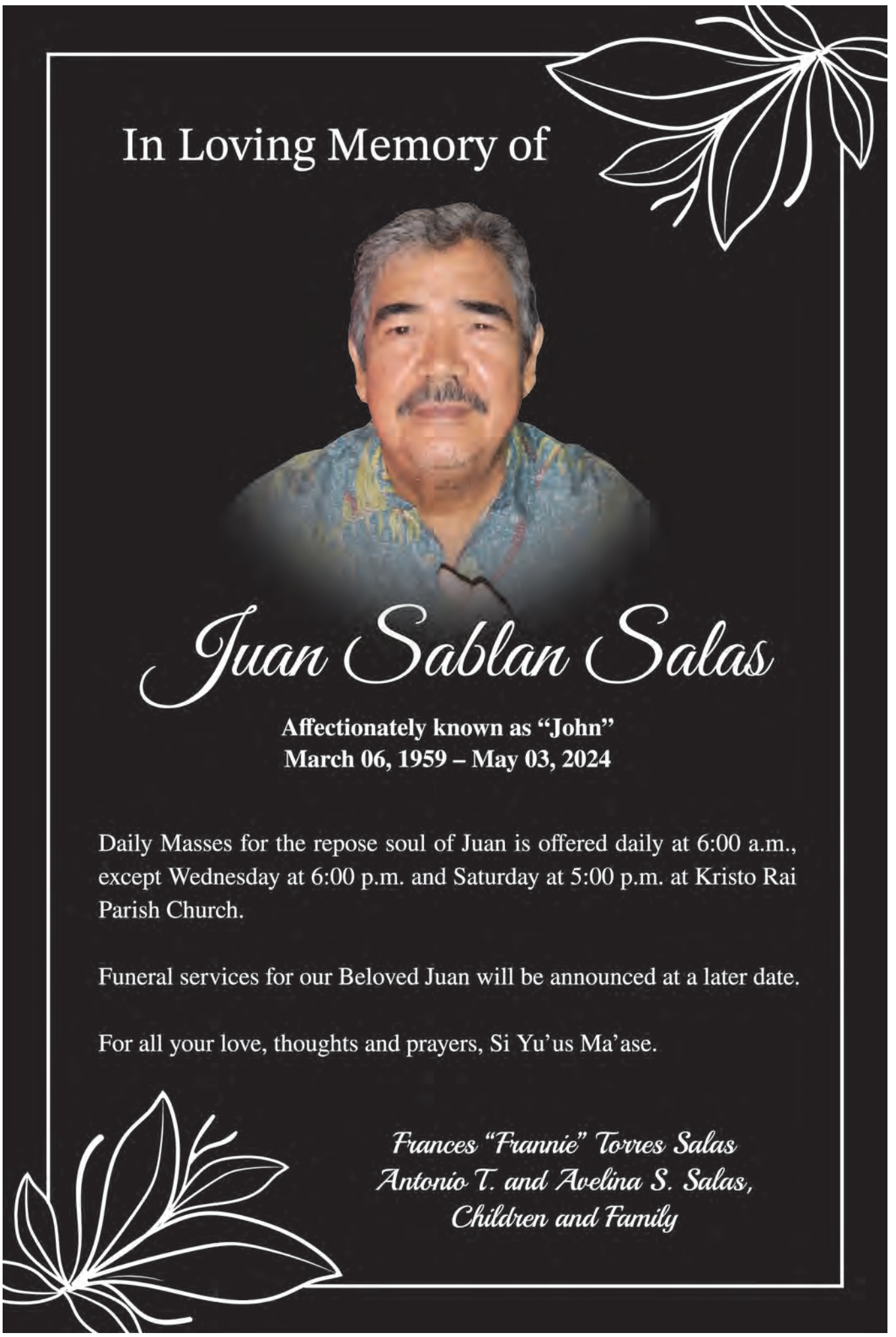
"In the past year, we have witnessed the incredible generosity and dedication of our employees who have doubled their efforts to support Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI Chapter. Through their contributions, we aim to bring even more hope and joy into the lives of children facing adversity," said Jay Jones, senior vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc.

Reflecting on the company's 40th anniversary, Jones added, "Giving back has been an integral part of Triple J's mission since its inception. As we celebrate this milestone, we reaffirm our commitment to serving our island community."

The sentiment was echoed by Yolanda Padrones, Triple J's director of Human Resources, who emphasized the importance of instilling the value of community service among employees. "At Triple J, we believe in fostering a culture of compassion and giving. Our employees' participation in initiatives like the Workplace Giving Program demonstrates our shared commitment to making a positive impact on our community," she remarked.

"As we celebrate the doubling of wishes needing granting, Triple J's unwavering support is more crucial than ever. Their generosity empowers us to bring double the joy to children facing critical illnesses, making dreams a reality in our community," remarked Eric Tydingco, president, and CEO of Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI chapter.

For more information on how to support Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI chapter, contact info@guam.wish.org or call 671-649-9474 (Guam), 670-483-9474 (Northern Marianas). ***(PR)***


In Loving Memory of
Juan Sablan Salas
Affectionately known as "John"
March 06, 1959 – May 03, 2024
Daily Masses for the repose soul of Juan is offered daily at 6:00 a.m., except Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 5:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Parish Church.
Funeral services for our Beloved Juan will be announced at a later date.
For all your love, thoughts and prayers, Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
Frances "Frannie" Torres Salas
Antonio T. and Avelina S. Salas,
Children and Family

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Qantas agrees to pay $79M in compensation and a fine for selling seats on canceled flights

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Qantas Airways agreed to pay 120 million Australian dollars ($79 million) in compensation and a fine for selling tickets on thousands of cancelled flights, the airline and Australia's consumer watchdog said on Monday. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission sued the Sydney-based airline in the Federal Court last year. The commission alleged that Qantas engaged in false, misleading or deceptive conduct by advertising tickets for more than 8,000 flights from May 2021 through to July 2022 that had already been canceled. Qantas agreed to settle the suit by paying a AU$100 million ($66 million) fine to the Australian government and a projected AU$20 million ($13 million) to more than 86,000 affected customers. "Today represents another important step forward as we work towards restoring confidence in the national carrier," Qantas chief executive Vanessa Hudson said in a statement. "When flying resumed after the COVID shutdown, we recognize Qantas let down customers and fell short of our own standards. We know many of our customers were affected by our failure to provide cancellation notifications in a timely manner and we are sincerely sorry," said Hudson, who replaced Alan Joyce at the airline's helm in November last year.

Israel orders Al Jazeera to close local operation, seizes some of its equipment

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Israel ordered the local offices of Qatar's Al Jazeera satellite news network to close Sunday, escalating a long-running feud between the broadcaster and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-line government as Doha-mediated cease-fire negotiations with Hamas hang in the balance. The extraordinary order, which includes confiscating broadcast equipment, preventing the broadcast of the channel's reports and blocking its websites, is believed to be the first time Israel has ever shuttered a foreign news outlet operating in the country. Al Jazeera went off Israel's main cable and satellite providers in the hours after the order. However, its website and multiple online streaming links still operated Sunday. The network has reported the Israeli-Hamas war nonstop since the militants' initial cross-border attack Oct. 7 and has maintained 24-hour coverage in the Gaza Strip amid Israel's grinding ground offensive that has killed and wounded members of its staff.

Life & Style

Bernard Hill, of 'Titanic' and LOTR,' has died at 79

Celebrating excellence in journalism and the arts, Pulitzer Prizes to be awarded Monday

NEW YORK (AP)—The Pulitzer Prizes are set to be announced on Monday, traditionally the most anticipated day of the year for those hoping to earn print journalism's most prestigious honor.

Along with honoring winners and finalists in 15 journalism categories, the Pulitzer Board also recognizes distinguished work in areas including books, music and theater. The awards, which will honor work from 2023, are scheduled to be announced via livestream at 3 p.m. Eastern time.

While forecasting potential winners is a guessing game, the Pulitzers often go to coverage of the year's biggest stories. In this case, the Oct. 7 attack on Israel and subsequent war in Gaza is a possibility and may engender controversy.

With the Committee to Protect Journalists estimating at least 97 journalists and media workers have been killed in Gaza, many observers will be interested to see if the Pulitzers recognize work by Palestinian reporters. Last month a group of journalism professors called on The New York Times to address questions about an investigation into gender-based violence during the Hamas attack on Israel.

The prizes are administered by Columbia University in New York, which itself has been in the news for student demonstrations against the war in Gaza. The Pulitzer board met away from Columbia this past weekend to deliberate on its winners.

The board issued a statement Thursday saluting student journalists at Columbia and other universities across the country for their work covering the campus demonstrations.

For the first time, the Pulitzers opened eligibility to broadcast and audio companies that also operate digital news sites, such as CNN, NPR and the broadcast networks ABC, CBS and NBC. The work must be primarily in digital journalism, however.

The Columbia Journalism School also administers the duPont-Columbia Awards, which recognize audio and visual journalism and are presented in the winter.

The Pulitzers give out cash awards and a medal for its prestigious public service prize, won last year by The Associated Press for its coverage of the Russian siege of Mariupol in Ukraine.

The Pulitzers also announced that five of the 45 finalists this year used artificial intelligence in research and reporting of their submissions. It was the first time the board required applicants for the award to disclose use of AI.

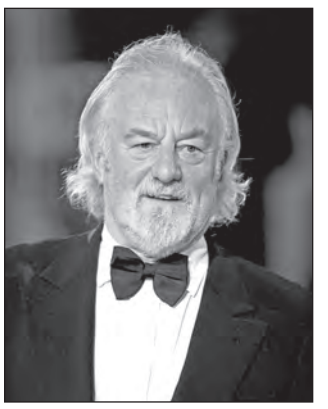
The prizes were established in the will of newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer and first awarded in 1917.

LONDON (AP)—Actor Bernard Hill, who delivered a rousing cry before leading his people into battle in "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" and went down with the ship as the captain in "Titanic," has died.

Hill, 79, passed away Sunday morning, agent Lou Coulson said.

Hill joined "The Lord Of The Rings" franchise in the second film of the trilogy, 2002's "The Two Towers," as Théoden, King of Rohan. The following year, he reprised the role in "Return of the King," a movie that won 11 Oscars.

In one of the film's most memorable scenes, Hill's character fires up his overmatched forces by delivering a battle cry on horseback that sends his troops thundering downhill toward the enemy and his own imminent death.



AP

Actor Bernard Hill arrives for the U.K. Premiere of "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" at the Odeon Leicester Square, in London, Dec. 12, 2012.

"Arise, arise, riders of Théoden!" Hill hollers. "Spears shall be shaken, shields shall be splintered! A sword day, a red day, ere the sun rises! Ride now! Ride now! Ride! Ride for ruin and the world's ending! Death! Death! Death!"

In "Titanic," Hill played Captain Edward Smith, one of the only characters based on a real person in the 1997 tragic romance starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. The film also won 11 Academy Awards.

As the doomed ship takes on water, Hill's character silently retreats to the wheelhouse. As the cabin groans under the pressure of the waves, he takes a final breath and grabs the wheel as water bursts through the windows.

Hill first made a name for himself as Yosser Hughes in "Boys From the Blackstuff," a 1982 British TV miniseries about five unemployed men.

He was nominated for an award in 1983 from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts for the role, and the show won the BAFTA for best drama series.

His death came the same day the second series of the BBC drama "The Responder" was to air, in which he played the father of the show's star, Martin Freeman.

"Bernard Hill blazed a trail across the screen, and his long-lasting career filled with iconic and remarkable roles is a testament to his incredible talent, said Lindsay Salt, director of BBC Drama. "Our thoughts are with his loved ones at this sad time."

Tom Brady's Netflix roast features lots of humor, reunion between Robert Kraft and Bill Belichick

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Three months before Tom Brady gets roasted by critics as Fox Sports' top NFL analyst, he took his share of barbs from comedians, former teammates and his longtime coach Sunday night during a made-for-streaming comedy live event on Netflix.

And it is safe to say after the one liners and jokes Brady heard during three hours of "The Greatest Roast of All Time" at The Forum, he will do just fine.

"It's like a football game. You run with a game plan, and then you get to see kind of how the strategy goes, and then you adjust on the fly," Brady said before the event. "This is what a locker room has been like for me for all these years. So it's not like I'm used to people not making fun of me."

AP

Tom Brady poses at "The Greatest Roast of All Time: Tom Brady" at the Kia Forum, Sunday, May 5, 2024, in Inglewood, Calif.

Comedian Nikki Glaser, whose monologue was among the funniest of the night, termed the roast as "the comedians' Super Bowl" and how the competition level was ramped up because everyone wanted to one-up each other.

Brady sustained more blitzes and pressure than he did during an average NFL game as an impressive lineup of comedians, former teammates and opponents took the stage . Host Kevin Hart said before the event that no topic was off limits, and Hart went on the offensive early with jokes about Brady's ex-wife, Gisele Bündchen.

"Gisele gave you an ultimatum. She said you retire or we're done. When you got a chance to go 8-9 and all it will cost you is your wife and your kids, you've got to do what you've got to do," Hart said, referring to Brady coming out of a brief retirement in 2022 for one more season.

Relative's gifts choices are unwanted and annoying

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 77-year-old woman with a 27-year-old granddaughter who loves electronic gadgets and toys. She's comfortable financially and often buys expensive gifts for me. While I appreciate her generosity and her desire to make my life "easier and more fun," I simply am NOT INTERESTED in them.

I find these devices more frustrating than enjoyable. I don't NEED anything, and I don't WANT anything. I have asked her repeatedly to please not spend her money on me, but it falls on deaf ears. Perhaps if you print this, she might realize how difficult it sometimes is for us older folks to use these gadgets. How can I get my point across without hurting her feelings?

GOOD INTENTIONS

DEAR GOOD INTENTIONS: Tell your granddaughter you love her and appreciate her generosity, but electronic gadgets are not enjoyable for you, and you wish she would stop giving them to you. If she asks what you might like, explain (again) that you do not need anything but would instead like to spend time or go to an event with her. That message should not cause hurt feelings.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have one sibling, a sister, who is three years younger than I am. Our mom is very elderly. My sister and I have a terrible relationship. We cannot get along.

When Mom dies, would it be OK for me not to go to the funeral? We have no other family, and I have no desire to see my sister. Mom and I have a great relationship. Do other people experience this? I told her lawyer I can't go. He said he understands.

ON MY OWN IN NEW YORK

DEAR O.M.O.: Funerals may seem to be "for" the deceased, but they are really to comfort the living. The time to demonstrate respect and affection is while someone is living. You have done that with your mother for many years. I doubt there is much left unsaid between you. When your mother passes, do what feels right to you. Your mother's lawyer said he understands. That should be enough dispensation.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: After spending hours preparing a meal, is it appropriate for your guest to cover the food on their plate with salt and pepper without first tasting it? Beyond being inappropriate, isn't it just plain rude? Should I say something? Never invite them for a meal again? Or just let it go?

IN A STATE IN THE GARDEN STATE

DEAR IN A STATE: The next time a guest reflexively gestures toward the saltshaker without having taken a bite of your food, you would be within your rights to ask WHY. Perhaps your cooking tends toward the underspiced.

If you are truly offended by this, no rule of etiquette decrees that you must invite the person again. (I also know of no rule of etiquette that states a host MUST put salt and pepper on the table.) If a friendship is a warm one, I'm inclined to allow my guests to do whatever makes them comfortable, appreciate them for who they are and let something like this go.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

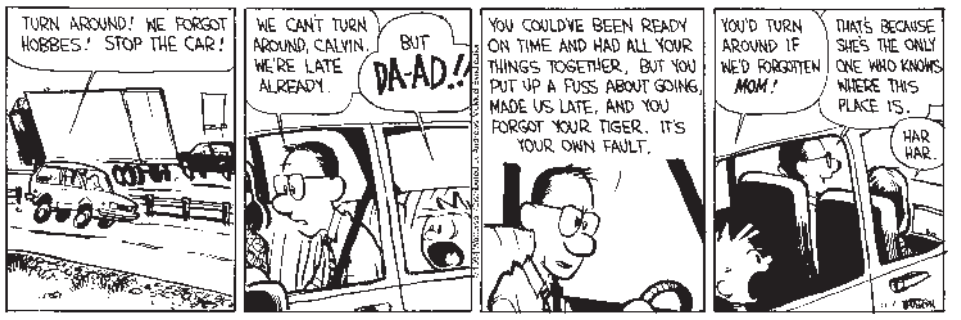
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

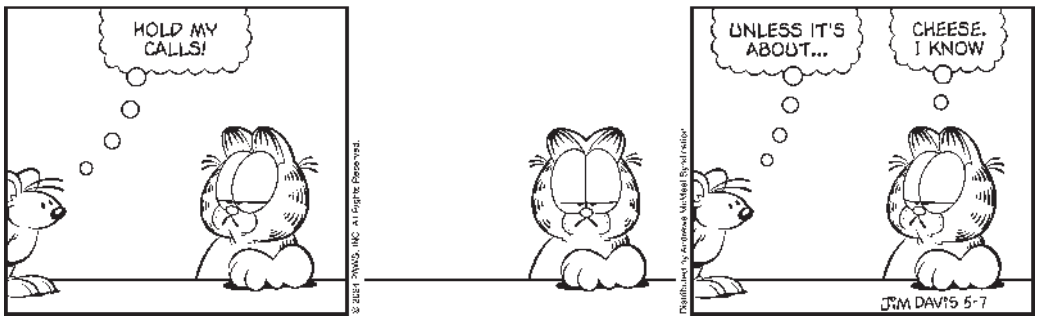
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


TURN AROUND! WE FORGOT HOBBES! STOP THE CAR!
WE CAN'T TURN AROUND, CALVIN. WE'RE LATE ALREADY.
BUT DA-AD!!
YOU COULD'VE BEEN READY ON TIME AND HAD ALL YOUR THINGS TOGETHER, BUT YOU PUT UP A FUSS ABOUT GOING, MADE US LATE, AND YOU FORGOT YOUR TIGER. IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT.
YOU'D TURN AROUND IF WE'D FORGOTTEN MOM!
THAT'S BECAUSE SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE THIS PLACE IS.
HAR HAR.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



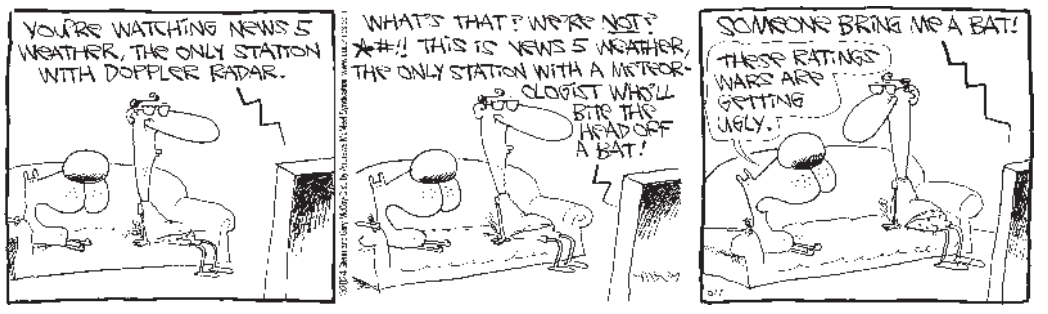
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU GETTING UP?
WOULD YOU? I MEAN, LOOK AT THIS.
A DOG. A WARM BED. COZINESS PERSONIFIED.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WE'RE ON A TWENTY-MINUTE COZY DELAY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU'RE WATCHING NEWS 5 WEATHER, THE ONLY STATION WITH DOPPLER RADAR.
WHAT'S THAT? WE'RE NOT? *#! THIS IS NEWS 5 WEATHER, THE ONLY STATION WITH A METEOROLOGIST WHO'LL BITE THE HEAD OFF A BAT!
SOMEONE BRING ME A BAT!
THESE RATINGS WARS ARE GETTING UGLY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

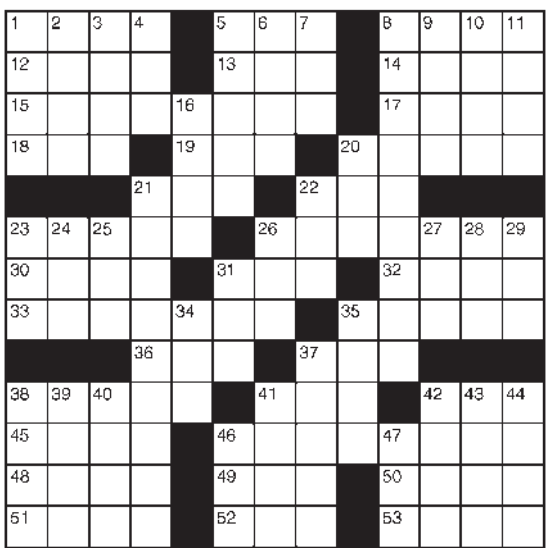
ACROSS
1 Droop
5 Omega preceder
8 "Fernando" group
12 Pub orders
13 Capitol Hill VIP
14 Experts
15 Pancake
17 Heap
18 "For shame!"
19 PC key
20 "Get Here" singer Adams
21 Comic Carrey
22 Land in la mer
23 Vatican-related
26 Handyman's tasks
30 Guitarist Clapton
31 7, on older phones
32 Atmosphere
33 Sealing rings
35 "Va-moose!"
36 Monk's title
37 Talk and talk
38 Entrap
41 Lobbying org.
42 Insult
45 Miso soup cube
46 Big casino wins
48 Morales of "Jericho"
49 Fire sign?
50 Prayer ender
51 Impudent
52 Witticism
53 Aliases

DOWN
1 Float gently
2 Misfortunes
3 Tap problem
4 Recipe abbr.
5 Song of praise
6 Faction
7 Pen filler
8 Cider brandy
9 Party cheese
10 Piece of hardware
11 Sailing
16 Hoosegow
20 Vintage
21 Edible product of a tropical tree
22 Egos' counterparts
23 Wooden pin
24 Altar constellation
25 Math ratios
26 Hosp. areas
27 Couple's pronoun
28 Bikini top
29 Muppet eagle
31 School org.
34 Before
35 Bag
37 Marina boat
38 Dance move
39 Proboscis
40 Miles away
41 El —, Texas
42 "— arigato"
43 Detail
44 Taxpayer IDs
46 Bread spread
47 Bad review

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	P	F			P	B	S		S	O	F	A
H	A	L	C		A	R	C		A	R	I	A
O	L	A	V		R	I	O		T	O	G	A
T	O	W	E	L		T	O	R	I			
			N	O	Z		P	A	S	T	E	L
G	O	C	R	A	Z	Y		E	F	I	L	E
E	R	I	E		Z	A	P		A	S	I	A
E	A	T	A	T		M	O	O	C	H	E	S
S	L	I	C	E	S		E	F	T			
			T	A	N	S		T	I	B	E	T
D	E	L	I		A	T	M		O	R	E	O
A	L	S	O		K	I	A		N	I	K	E
N	O	U	N		E	R	E		E	S	S	

Yesterday's answer 5-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alexander Ludwig, 32; Sydney Leroux, 34; Breckin Meyer, 50; Amy Heckerling, 70.

Happy Birthday: Get on with your life, and engage in whatever it takes to point you in the direction you want to pursue. Your staying power will enable you to press forward until you find your comfort zone. Leave nothing to chance, and only delegate jobs that cannot disrupt your plans. A passionate pursuit will bring you closer to the people you want to be with and the lifestyle you long for. Your numbers are 9, 17, 21, 25, 33, 37, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Put your energy to work for you. Engage in activities that allow you to use your imagination and intelligence. Don't let someone's change of plans disrupt your day. It's up to you to generate opportunities and make things happen. Choose the path that sets you free. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Preparation is necessary if you want to reach your target. Call in an expert if it will save you time and ensure you get things right. Don't be afraid to express yourself or your feelings. Honesty will help you achieve your dreams. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Trust your instincts, not what someone tells you. An energetic, informative approach to getting things done will put you in an excellent position to make your dreams come true. Don't share sensitive issues with anyone who could use your words to make you look bad. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Participation will encourage learning, perfecting and making innovative changes that broaden your chance to advance. Actions speak louder than words, and your results will be worthwhile. Who you connect with will encourage a brighter future. Romance is favored.✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't disrupt what's working for you. Tread carefully and protect what matters most to you. Think before you initiate plans or jump into something that requires time and effort you don't have to give. Maximize your results by paying attention to detail. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get moving, play to win and make positive changes that propel you to reach your goals. Dream big, and your hard work will carry you to the finish line. The sky is the limit, so don't waste valuable time; chase your dream. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take good care of yourself. Make exercise and your emotional well-being your priorities. Keep the conversation with people who you value and are heading in a similar direction as you positive and conclusive. Nurture what you love. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll gravitate toward people who make you think and question your actions. Revisit what and who brings you joy, and focus on being happy and content with your life. A change will do you good and encourage you to pursue your dreams. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Follow through with your plans. If you wait for someone else to step up and take over, you'll be disappointed with the results. Get involved in events or activities that stimulate your mind and energize you to be the one to make a difference. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't feel you have to explain yourself or your actions. Taking advantage of your time and using it to reach your goal can be critical. Allow those you know have and will offer what you need into your circle. Personal growth is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Live within your means and learn from experience. Get the lowdown before addressing issues concerning friends or family. Trips, meetings and living up to your promises will help you get things done your way. Adjust your spending to fit your budget and save for an unexpected expense. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Set goals and continue until you are happy with the results. Traveling, learning and reuniting with old friends or colleagues will be eye-opening. An offer will require some finagling on your part to make it work. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are relentless, engaging and motivated. You are reflective and distinguishing.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3		9	5	8
3		1				7		
	8	7		2				
7					3	1		
4				1	9	8	7	
	1			7	8	5	9	4
8	2			5		6		9
5			1	6				
			8		2		3	5

Difficulty: ★★ 5/7

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	9	1	5	6	3	8	2	7
2	3	8	9	1	7	6	4	5
6	7	5	2	4	8	3	1	9
9	4	3	8	5	1	7	6	2
7	5	6	3	2	4	1	9	8
1	8	2	7	9	6	4	5	3
8	2	4	6	7	5	9	3	1
5	6	7	1	3	9	2	8	4
3	1	9	4	8	2	5	7	6

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Difficulty: ★ 5/6

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COLLEGES Solution: 7 letters

S	C	F	A	C	I	L	I	T	Y	T	E	F	A	S
S	M	O	T	N	E	M	E	G	A	N	A	M	V	E
S	C	R	N	D	I	N	T	E	R	I	O	R	I	C
T	R	I	O	S	M	E	A	S	U	R	E	D	S	I
N	E	M	H	F	U	C	B	Y	L	A	W	T	U	F
I	E	R	E	P	O	L	E	V	E	D	R	R	A	F
R	N	E	C	L	A	G	T	L	R	U	B	S	L	O
P	I	C	O	D	E	R	I	A	C	A	C	R	T	I
E	G	R	M	E	S	T	G	T	N	I	R	C	V	L
U	N	B	P	T	X	K	U	N	S	T	E	W	I	O
L	E	L	U	E	I	R	E	Y	I	J	S	A	S	F
B	A	D	T	I	E	M	H	T	O	L	T	R	I	T
N	I	E	E	S	L	P	R	R	C	E	O	D	O	R
O	P	A	R	K	S	D	P	E	D	H	R	O	N	O
N	O	I	T	A	C	I	L	P	P	A	E	S	C	P

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Application, Blueprints, Build, Bylaw, Code, Color, Computer, Consultant, Cooling, Detail, Developer, Draw, Engineer, Facility, Forms, Graphics, Interior, Management, Measure, Office, Parks, Permit, Physics, Plan, Portfolio, Project, Remodel, Restore, Ruler, Safety, Sketch, Structures, Studio, Textile, Urban, Vision, Visual

Yesterday's Answer: Blessed

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Mitchell scores 39 as Cavs push past Magic in Game 7 to get Boston next

CLEVELAND (AP)—Donovan Mitchell brought redemption and relief to himself and the Cavaliers.

A year after being bullied and bounced in the first round of the NBA playoffs, Cleveland is moving on.

Mitchell made sure.

"This is why I'm here," he said. "It's my job."

Mitchell scored 39 points, Caris LeVert added 15 and Cleveland avoided a potentially franchise-shifting loss by rallying for a 106-94 win over the Orlando Magic on Sunday in Game 7 to advance in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

The Cavs trailed by 18 in the first half and were in danger of being eliminated early for the second year in a row—a scenario that may have led to firings.

But Mitchell, who scored 50 in a Game 6 loss at Orlando and has been battling a left knee injury for months, put the Cavs on his back. He carried them past an up-and-coming Orlando team whose playoff inexperience showed in the second half.

"I don't mean this disrespectful, but it doesn't really mean much," Mitchell said. "We didn't come in just to win the first round. We accomplished one goal, now we have to do it again. That's the mindset."

According to the NBA, Cleveland's comeback is the largest in a Game 7 since the league began tracking play-by-play in 1997-98.

Evan Mobley grabbed 16 rebounds and Darius Garland hit a critical 3-pointer—after getting a pep talk from Mitchell—in the fourth for Cleveland, which won its first playoff series without LeBron James since 1993.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell gestures to the crowd in the second half of Game 7 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Orlando Magic, Sunday, May 5, 2024, in Cleveland.

The Cavs will begin the second round on the road against the top-seeded Celtics in Game 1 on Tuesday. Boston went 2-1 against Cleveland this season.

In the closing minutes, the towel-waving crowd inside Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse chanted, "We want Boston! a matchup that didn't look likely an hour earlier.

"I'm pretty sure everybody thinks they're going to come in and kick our ass," Mitchell said. "So for us to continue to stay level-headed throughout, and just be who we are, that's the biggest thing."

Paolo Banchero scored 38—just 14 after halftime—and added 16 rebounds to lead the Magic, who grew up in the series but couldn't figure out how to win in Cleveland as both teams held serve on their floors.

Orlando's Franz Wagner and Jalen Suggs went a combined 3 of 28 from the field.

The moment turned out to be too much for the Magic, who pushed the Cavs to the limit.

"After the first game, people were like, I don't know if they're ready," Banchero said. "To come back the way we did, it shows where we're headed and shows what we're able to do."

Down by 10 at halftime, Cleveland raised its defensive intensity in the third quarter and outscored Orlando 33-15. The Magic went just 4 of 24 from the field in the period and seemed hesitant while waiting for Banchero to do more.

The Cavs were up 85-77 in the fourth when Garland, who was in foul trouble in the first half and was clearly frustrated before Mitchell wrapped his arm around him on the bench, drained a 3-pointer from the corner to put Cleveland up 11.

After the shot dropped and Orlando called a timeout, a relieved Garland was bear-hugged by Mitchell, who was acquired in a trade two years ago from Utah to hopefully get Cleveland closer to another championship.

The Cavs took another step with him.

"We've been at it for two years and we've been trying to get past this first round, so he knew that we all wanted it at the same time and together," Garland said. "He knew that I was a little bit down in the first half, but he kept trusting me.

"It's cool just having him in my ear a little bit, just telling me to keep going, stay confident in myself. I really needed it."

Cleveland was again without starting center Jarrett Allen, who missed the final three games in the series with a painful rib injury sustained from an errant Magic elbow.

Before he got hurt, Allen was Cleveland's most consistent player against the Magic, getting 20 rebounds in Game 2 while giving the Cavs a defensive presence underneath to at least deter Orlando drives.

His status for the Boston series remains unknown.

Led by the 21-year-old Banchero, the Magic, who only won 22 games two years ago before they selected him with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, were 24 minutes from winning a series they trailed 2-0.

But Orlando didn't have enough—or Mitchell.

Whenever the Cavs needed a big play, the All-Star guard made one. Whenever a teammate needed support, he was there. And in scoring 89 points in the final two games, Mitchell may have finally silenced critics who pointed to his inability to close.

This time, he finished the job.

"That's what special players do when it matters most," Cavs coach J.B. Bickerstaff said. "He was special when he needed to be."

Knicks set for 2nd round vs. Pacers, an old-school playoff rival who play a new-age game

NEW YORK (AP)—Back when the New York Knicks would annually march on in the playoffs, they'd almost always run into the Indiana Pacers.

With the teams set to renew their playoff rivalry Monday in the Eastern Conference semifinals, it's easy to think back to those rough and rugged tussles in the 1990s. But while the matchup may be old school, Jalen Brunson and the Knicks are bracing for an opponent who plays a new-age style.

Tyrese Haliburton runs the NBA's highest-scoring offense, with Indiana putting numbers on the scoreboard that make the ones in the past Knicks-Pacers contests look like a different sport, not just a different century.

"I guess whenever you have the original teams from back then, there's always going to be some type of history," Brunson said. "But you have two good teams who play very, I don't want to say different, but like, they play their own style of basketball. And so it's going to be a grind of who's going to go out there, who's going to want it more who's going to try to go get it."

Brunson led the No. 2-seeded Knicks past Philadelphia in the first round, sending the Knicks into the East semifinals in consecutive seasons for the first time since making nine straight trips between 1992 and 2000.

He scored 40 or more points in the final three games, just the seventh player in NBA history with three straight 40-point games in the playoffs. The league's No. 4 scorer in the regular season tops all players in the postseason with 35.5 per game.

Indiana's big numbers come as a team. The Pacers led the league with 123.3 points per game, sixth highest in league history, and also were tops in field goal percentage and assists. They reached 140 points 11 times, an NBA record.

The sixth-seeded Pacers haven't slowed down too much in the playoffs. They averaged 113 while knocking off No. 3 Milwaukee and reached at least 120 in all four victories during the six-game series.

The Knicks and Pacers met three straight times from 1993-95—exchanging Game 7 victories in the latter two—then again from 1998-2000, with the last two of those in the Eastern Conference finals. Indiana won the most recent meeting, ousting the No. 2-seeded Knicks in the 2013 East semifinals.

Neither team ever reached 120 points in any of the 41 games.

"It's just a very intense matchup, that's really the simple truth about it," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "There's a lot of stuff with Reggie Miller for five or six years and I know in 2013 there was another matchup. We're going to have to be very resilient and we're going to have to be very together."

THIS SEASON

Indiana went 2-1 against New York and was right at its season average with 123.3 points per game, including 140 in a Dec. 30 victory when the Knicks were short-handed after a trade. Brunson averaged 35.7 points.

BRUNSON VS. HALIBURTON

The point guards were U.S. teammates last summer playing in the Basketball World Cup, then went on to have their best NBA seasons. Both were All-Stars, with Haliburton the Eastern Conference starter in his home arena en route to leading the league with 10.9 assists per game.

EX-RAPTOR VS. EX-RAPTOR

Pascal Siakam and OG Anunoby were starters in Toronto to begin the season before the forwards were traded, with Anunoby going to the Knicks in December and Siakam to Indiana in January. The Knicks are 24-5 with Anunoby in the lineup and may need him now to defend his former teammate, who opened the playoffs with consecutive games of at least 35 points and 10 rebounds.

BRUNSON VS. CARLISLE

Brunson began his career in Dallas playing for Carlisle, who praised his former player's character and said they had a great three years together. Brunson was asked if he had extra motivation after an ESPN podcast referenced his frustration in getting only 10 minutes of playing time in a Game 7 loss to the Clippers in 2021.

"In all honesty, I said this last time, you're in the playoffs now, there is no extra motivation," Brunson said. "It is what it is, the past is the past. Rick, he welcomed me into this league and he helped me become the player and he helped me grow from day one. So a coach has got to make decisions that suit their team. So whatever happened, happened and we're moving forward from there."

OBI'S OPPORTUNTITY

Obi Toppin was the Knicks' first-round pick in 2020 and became a fan favorite, though rarely got extended playing time behind All-Star Julius Randle. He scored a career playoff-high 21 points off the bench in the clinching victory over Milwaukee and now heads back to his original NBA home.

"They're one of the most physical teams in the league," Toppin said. "They've had that identity for many years and we've got to come in there and match that physicality and play our style of basketball, and I think we'll be good at that."

Mariners beat Astros, 5-4, thanks to 9th inning Raleigh homer

HOUSTON (AP)—Cal Raleigh hit a tiebreaking solo home run in the ninth to give the Seattle Mariners a 5-4 win over the Houston Astros on Sunday.

Raleigh sent an 0-2 pitch from Josh Hader (1-3) into the Crawford Boxes in left field with one out in the ninth. Luis Urías tied it at four in the eighth on an RBI single.

Andrés Muñoz (2-2) pitched the final 1 1/3 innings for the win.

Jon Singleton launched a two-run homer to right to give Houston a 4-3 lead in the seventh. Kyle Tucker cut the lead to 3-2 with a two-run homer to right in the sixth.

Luke Raley hit a solo home run into the second deck in right field to lead off the sixth, and the Mariners got two in the second on an Urías bases loaded walk and Josh Rojas RBI single. Rojas finished with three hits.

AP

Seattle Mariners' Cal Raleigh runs the bases after hitting a go-ahead solo home run during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros, Sunday, May 5, 2024, in Houston.

PIRATES 5, ROCKIES 3

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Oneil Cruz hit a two-run homer to highlight a four-run sixth inning, powering Pittsburgh past Colorado for a series win.

Cruz sent a slider from Ryan Feltner (1-3) 429 feet to right-center, bouncing his fifth of the season off the roof of a bar beyond the stands to put Pittsburgh ahead 4-3. He also had a double for his first game with multiple extra-base hits in 35 games this season.

Rowdy Tellez then hit a double to right before scoring on a single from Jack Suwinski. Feltner, who gave up five runs on eight hits in 5 2/3 innings, began the inning by allowing a single to Connor Joe and a double to Bryan Reynolds in the first four pitches. Joe scored on a grounder from Ke'Bryan Hayes.

The Pirates took the final two of the three-game set, their first series victory since winning two of three against Baltimore from April 5-7. The Rockies, who have lost seven of eight, have yet to win a series.

GUARDIANS 4, ANGELS 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—Jose Ramirez broke an 0-for-19 skid and finished a 10-pitch at-bat with a two-run home run and Josh Naylor also hit a two-run shot to lift Cleveland to a victory over Los Angeles.

Ramirez, a five-time All-Star had been hitless in six consecutive games before connecting on a full-count fastball from Griffin Canning (1-4) in the sixth inning to wipe out a 1-0 deficit. Andres Gimenez singled and Ramirez followed with his sixth home run of the season into the stands in right-center.

Naylor added insurance with his team-leading eighth homer with two outs in the eighth inning off Matt Moore. Naylor's shot came after Ramirez drew a two-out walk.

Carlos Carrasco (2-2) allowed one run and six hits over six innings. He had given up 13 runs and five home runs over nine innings in his previous two starts.

WHITE SOX 5, CARDINALS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Eloy Jimenez homered and Garrett Crochet tossed six effective innings to help Chicago to a win over St. Louis.

Chicago had lost 14 of its first 16 road games this season, Paul DeJong added a run-scoring double for the White Sox, who won their first road series of the season. DeJong spent seven seasons in St. Louis from 2017-2023.

Willson Contreras homered for St. Louis, which has lost four of five.

Jimenez hit his fourth of the season off reliever Giovanny Gallegos (2-1) to snap a 1-1 tie leading off the seventh inning. The drive kick-started a four-run outburst.

CUBS 5, BREWERS 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Javier Assad pitched six sparkling innings, and Chicago beat Freddy Peralta and Milwaukee in the rubber game of their weekend set.

Assad (3-0) allowed four hits, struck out four and walked three, lowering his ERA to 1.66. The right-hander has permitted two or fewer runs in each of his seven starts this season.

Chicago posted two straight wins against Milwaukee after losing 3-1 on Friday. The starting pitchers for the Cubs combined for 18 1/3 scoreless innings in the series, allowing a total of nine hits.

Peralta (3-1) matched his career high with six walks in five innings. He allowed three hits and struck out five on a sunny, cool day at Wrigley Field.

It was the right-hander's first start since he was suspended five games for his role in a brawl with the Rays on Tuesday. He is appealing the punishment by Major League Baseball.

RED SOX 9, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Ceddanne Rafaela hit the first Boston home run in seven games, Rafael Devers added another as they ended Minnesota's 12-game winning streak.

Vaughn Grissom and Dominic Smith had two-run doubles, and Boston ended a three-game slide in which it scored just four runs.

Ryan Jeffers homered and Trevor Larnach had an RBI single for Minnesota.

The Twins 12-game winning streak was tied for the second-longest in team history behind a 15-win run in June 1991, the last season Minnesota won the World Series.

With one out in the fifth, Rafaela hit a full count offering from Joe Ryan into the first row of the left center field seats for a two-run home run and a 3-1 lead. Rafaela hit the team's previous round-tripper in last Saturday's 17-0 win over the Cubs.

RAYS 7, METS 6, 10 INNINGS

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Randy Arozarena hit a tying homer off Edwin Díaz with two outs in the ninth inning, Jonny DeLuca lined a two-run triple in the 10th and Tampa Bay beat New York for a three-game sweep.

Automatic runner José Caballero stole third as Jake Diekman (1-1) walked Ben Rortvedt leading off the 10th. Both runners scored when DeLuca's line drive got past a diving Harrison Bader in center field.

New York took a 6-5 lead in the top of the 10th when Bader scored on an error by first baseman Yandy Díaz, who was unable to make a clean catch on a low throw after Brandon Nimmo's grounder was deflected by reliever Erasmo Ramírez (1-0).

YANKEES 5, TIGERS 2, 8 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP)—Juan Soto hit a three-run double that snapped a seventh-inning tie and New York beat Detroit in a rain-shortened game to finish a weekend sweep.

The game was called following a 56-minute delay in the middle of the eighth after the teams played through a steady drizzle much of the day.

Completing a 17-day stretch without a break in the schedule, the Yankees improved to a season-high 10 games over .500.

New York loaded the bases against reliever Shelby Miller (3-4) in the seventh before Soto lined Andrew Chafin's sinker down the right-field line to break a 2-all tie.

NATIONALS 11, BLUE JAYS 8

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eddie Rosario's two-run homer in the seventh inning broke an 8-8 tie and Washington beat Toronto Blue.

After Jesse Winker doubled against Genesis Cabrera (1-1) leading off, Erik Swanson came on and got two outs, but Rosario homered to right center to make it 10-8.

The start of the game was delayed 85 minutes by rain in the forecast and it featured five lead changes.

Luis Garcia, Jr. had four hits including a home run and drove in four runs, and Winker added a three-run homer for Washington, which took two of three from Toronto.

DODGERS 5, BRAVES 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shohei Ohtani went 4 for 4 with two home runs, and Los Angeles beat Atlanta to sweep the three-game series.

Ohtani launched a hanging curveball from Braves started Max Fried 412 feet over the center field fence for a two-run homer in the first inning. He added a pair of singles in the third and the sixth before leading off the eighth inning with a 464-foot blast off reliever A.J. Minter deep into the left center field bleachers.

It was Ohtani's first multi-homer game with the Dodgers and the 17th of his career. His four hits also tied a career high. He is now tied for the major league lead with 10 home runs this season.

Teoscar Hernandez added a two-run homer and James Paxton took a shutout into the seventh inning for the Dodgers.

RANGERS 3, ROYALS 2, 10 INNINGS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Jonah Heim hit a tying solo home run in the ninth inning and Nathaniel Lowe had a go-ahead RBI single in the 10th, leading Texas to a victory over Kansas City.

With one out in the 10th, Corey Seager singled off James McArthur (1-1) to put runners on first and third. Lowe followed with his third RBI of the series to score Leody Tavares.

David Robertson pitched a scoreless 10th that included an intentional walk to Bobby Witt Jr. with two outs to seal the win for the Rangers with his first save of the season.

ORIOLES 11, REDS 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Dean Kremer pitched six shutout innings, Anthony Santander hit his third career grand slam and Baltimore completed a three-game series sweep of Cincinnati.

Jordan Westburg hit a two-run homer and Ryan McKenna added a solo shot for the Orioles, who have won four straight games and six of their last seven.

Kremer (3-2) retired the first 13 batters he faced until Christian Encarnacion-Strand singled with one out in the fifth. The Reds managed only one hit and a walk in Kremer's six innings. He struck out six.

Orioles starting pitchers were dominant in the three-game series. Cole Irvin pitched six shutout innings on Friday and John Means blanked the Reds through seven Saturday.

MARLINS 12, ATHLETICS 3

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Nick Gordon had four hits, including his first home run in three weeks, and Miami beat Oakland to end their six-game winning streak Sunday.

Josh Bell had a pair of RBI singles and Jonah Bride drove in two runs as the Marlins won for the third time in 12 games and avoided a series sweep.

Miami got 14 hits and had eight players with at least one RBI, a stark difference from a day earlier when the Marlins' bats were mostly muffled in a 20-4 loss to the A's.

Brent Rooker, who homered twice in one inning during the blowout victory Saturday, had two hits and scored twice for Oakland.

DIAMONDBACKS 11, PADRES 4

PHOENIX (AP)—Ketel Marte and Joc Pederson homered to back Ryne Nelson's return to the mound and Arizona snapped a three-game losing streak defeating San Diego.

The Diamondbacks roughed up Padres starter Matt Waldron (1-4), who gave up eight runs (seven earned) and eight hits in three innings.

Marte's two-run homer and Corbin Carroll's two-run single came in a four-run first inning.

San Diego, which had its four-game winning streak end, came back with three in the second on Jackson Merrill's two-run homer and Kyle Higashioka's RBI double against Nelson (2-2), who was activated from the injured list to make the start.

But Arizona answered with two more runs in its half of the inning on RBI hits from Jake McCarthy and Christian Walker.

PHILLIES 5, GIANTS 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryce Harper launched a three-run homer, Alec Bohm extended his hitting streak to 18 games and Philadelphia defeated San Francisco for their fifth straight victory.

J.T. Realmuto added three hits for the surging Phillies, who have won nine of 10 and 16 of 19. They own the best record in the majors at 24-11, which marks their best 35-game start since 1995.

Philadelphia's nine-game home winning streak matches the longest in the majors this year. The club has also won 10 in a row against NL West opponents, tying a franchise record.

Thairo Estrada hit a two-run homer and Michael Conforto had an RBI double for the Giants, who have lost three straight and five of six.

Nick Sablan Sr. wins SGA March tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Former CNMI national golfer punched his ticket to the Saipan Golfers Association's season-ending Ace of Aces Tournament after topping the March Ace of the Month Tournament last March 17 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The 72-year-old multi-titled par-buster shot his age—a net 72—after shooting a 39-40 in the front and back nine for a gross of 79.

"My putting was helping that day and it was just a perfect day for golf. As for dedicating the win to anyone, no one really but I'm glad that I got this out of the way so I can't just relax and wait for the big day," said Sablan.

Sablan now joins the 2024 Ace of the Month winners: Larry Deleon Guerrero (January) and Alex Tudela (February).

Tony Reyes came in second, one shot off Sablan's with a net 73 following a gross of 87 (47-40), while Larry Deleon Guerrero tied with Reyes but lost via tiebreaker to complete the Top 3 also with his net 73 (90, 44-46)

In the closest to the pin competition, Jung Eun Teack won in hole Nos. 6 and 12, while Sablan was without peer in hole No. 12.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan brought the lumber in hole No. 5 in the longest drive tilt, while Sablan did the trick in hole No. 11.

And speaking of Manibusan, he won the 2023 SGA Ace of Aces Tournament last Dec. 17 also at the Kingfisher golf course. The CNMI's highest-ranking law enforcement official won with his net score of 68 after taming the greens and fairways with his 41 in the front nine and 36 in the back nine.

Sablan won a triple tie at second place via scorecard tiebreak among him Ray Salas and John Matsumoto after all of them finished with identical net scores of 72, while Frances Sablan and Larry DeLeon Guerrero came in fourth and fifth with their 73 and 76 net, respectively.

In the January and February aces that were held concurrently during the Ace of Aces, Larry Deleon Guerrero won in January with his net 65, while Alex Tudela topped the February tourney with his net 71.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Nick Sablan Sr., seen here in a file photo, topped Saipan Golfers Association's March Ace of the Month Tournament last March 17 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

BABY

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Community School was at 8; Kagman Elementary School was 2; and Sinapalo Elementary School had 1.

The speedy Olivia Walsh in the 9U division and Windsor Gross in the 12U racked up points for their team as they finished first in their respective events.

On Day 1 last Friday, Walsh claimed the top spot in the 800m race with a time of 3:27.58. Second was TES' Sesa San Nicolas at 3:31.72; and third went to IMS' Honey Thomsen at 3:32.83.

In the 12U 800m, SIS' Kaylen Taflinger earned second place with a time of 3:07.07. First went to BSS' Lovel Spaeth at 3:05.68, and third place was SIS' Neveah Arriola at 3:13.38.

SIS then claimed second in the 4x400m with a time of 5:38.57. First place was WSR at 5:35 flat; and third was KobES at 5:44.39.

Gross handed SIS silver in the 12U long jump with a distance of 3.43m; first was GTC's Jhaexian Serion at 3.59m; and third was KobES' Lei Pebley at 3.38m.

On Day 2 last Saturday, Walsh triumphed once again and was first in the 1,500m race with her time of 7:04.38; a far second went to Thomsen at 7:2057.; and third was BSS' Aya Smith at 7:32.21.

Gross also topped her 1,500m race and clocked in at 6:15.41; a near second was Spaeth at 6:16.91; and third went to Taflinger at 6:31.52.

Gross then settled for bronze in the 100m sprint with her time of 15.81 seconds; first went to WSR's Anica Aquino at 15.33 seconds; and third was KobES' Baylyn Mansfield at 15.49 seconds.

Walsh was first again, this time in the 400m race at a time of 1:26.79; a close second was OES' Mitchiko Laniyo at 1:26.92; and third went to San Nicolas at 1:29.83.

Gross found herself on top once more in the 400m at 1:14.45; second was Aquino at 1:16.96; and third went to Spaeth at 1:17.05.

Then, their 4x100m team racked up points as they raced into third at 1:07.71; first was KobES at 1:03.50; and second was 1:04.92.

SIS' 9U roster included Olivia Walsh, Cassidy Ada, Isabella Chi, Micaela Zevallos, Amelia Zevallos, and Myrcella Sanciangco.

Their 12U roster was made up of Windsor Gross, Neveah Arriola, Kaylen Taflinger, Arianna Chi, and Sophia Kim.

New coach for SIS' girls team, Pamela Walsh, said of their team's performance this year that it was "interesting" and that they "worked hard, persevered, and finished."

"Winning the gold is a bonus because we always just want to finish what we start and finish strong," said Walsh. As for the season overall, she said it was fun. "Most of the elementary from first to fifth grade, we had a lot of participants. We are happy at SIS that everybody is trying to do something new or be part of a team."

This tournament concludes the elementary school 2023-2024 sports season.

This Friday and Saturday is the 18U/14U middle school/high school PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2023-2024 championships round.

Results of the boys division will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

FORCE

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sans costume because she's not a Star Wars fan, but she's heard great things about it. "Maybe I'll use a costume next year, we'll see," she said.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said they partnered with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Public Health Department in honor of Adolescent Health Month. They sponsored 100 adolescent entries aged 12-18.

"Thank you to Heather Pangelinan and Tony Yarobwemal for partnering with us. This is one of the great ways organizations can help donate. Instead of donating directly they can sponsor entries like CHCC did. Thank you CHCC. We hope they run it again next year with us," said Dela Cruz.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants of the 4th Annual Star Wars Day Run/Walk, hosted by Run Saipan, pose for a group photo last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

LEIGH GASES
Costume contest winners of the 4th Annual Star Wars Day Run/Walk, hosted by Run Saipan, pose with Run Saipan's Dr. Ron Snyder, left, and Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, right, during the awards ceremony at the American Memorial Park.

Run Saipan's Dr. Ron Snyder then said that the event was a success with a great turnout. "Even though we conflicted with the elementary track and field event, we had 192 registered runners, and a lot of people came and ran with their families, so it was well over 200 people," he said.

For Pangelinan, she said one of their initiatives is to work to improve adolescents' health so they can grow to be healthy adults.

"Physical health is linked to mental health and there are a lot of mental health benefits around being physically active. So, it's one of the reasons why we decided to partner with Run Saipan to promote physical activity amongst our CNMI population—most especially our youth who are vulnerable and are transitioning into adulthood. So, we want to set them up for successful futures," said Pangelinan.

CHOJU

From page 16

conceded with a 6-point margin and handed the championship to the undefeated Choju team.

Dominic Faisao led Choju with 16 markers, while Dikito put up 13 and Jay Art Palmes scored 13. Savemore's Mark Malinay had a game high 27 points, Moreno Martin was at 8 points, and Vicente and Julius Domine put up 6 each.

Choju's coach Matt Iguel said after the ceremony that their perfect season was "awesome."

He said throughout the season, "we fought hard and practiced every time, so I knew they were going to win it." As for their opponent Savemore, he said, "they're a good team, but we're better."

Iguel added their team's strength was that they had great all-around players. He then thanked the league for hosting and putting up the season.

Results of the league's awards will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Choju 64 – Faisao 16, Dikito 13, Palmes 13, Mamis 9, Pangelinan 8, Evangelista 3, Santos 2.

Savemore 58 – Malinay 27, Martin 8, Vicente 6, Domine 6, Jadoc 4, Habos 3, Saplan 2, Manangan 2.

Scoring by halves: 32-30, 64-58.

LEIGH GASES
Choju's Dominic Faisao gets fouled during an attempt in their finals game against Savemore in the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai last Saturday.

Mitchell scores 39 as Cavs push past Magic in Game 7 to get Boston next
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Force is strong with Jordan, Kaithlyn

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Force was strong with Jordan Ruiz and Andrei Kaithyln Chavez as they topped their respective divisions in the 4th Annual Star Wars Day Run/Walk, hosted by Run Saipan last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

LEIGH GASES

Jordan Ruiz runs into first place overall in the "5K NMI Jedi Open" men's division of the 4th Annual Star Wars Day Run/Walk last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

LEIGH GASES

Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez runs into first place in the "5K NMI Jedi Open" women's division of the 4th Annual Star Wars Day Run/Walk last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

In the "5K NMI Jedi Open" men's division, Ruiz came in first with a time of 19:26 from the course that started at AMP to the not so far away Gov. Eloy Inos Peace Park. A close second went to Joel Phair just two seconds behind, 19:28, and third place went to Landen Taflinger at 19:44.03.

Chavez, in the female division, was first with a sub-21 minute 5K time at 20:45; second went to Addalee Taflinger with a time of 23:37; and third was An Bang who clocked in at 24:19.

There was also a Padawan 1 Mile fun run/walk for children 18 and under, and a costume contest after the race.

Cortland Winkfield won first place and $100 for his Mandalorian costume made out of cardboard; tied for second place and $50 was Scott Smith as Princess Leia Organa from Star Wars: A New Hope, and Tammy Ackerman as Han Solo. Third place and $25 went to John Moreno as Count Dooku.

Ruiz ran into first place overall sans costume because he said he's never dressed up even for Halloween in years. He is also not a big Star Wars fan but said the event was "awesome."

"I really enjoyed going up Peace Park because I've never been up there. So, it was a nice course, a change of environment. It was pretty cool."

For Chavez, she said that the race was fun, "considering we barely have races going up Peace Park. The hill was a bit hard but it was a great way to push yourself. I was leading the whole time so I decided to try and finish in a fast time."

She ran into first place also

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Undefeated Choju sweeps Savemore for Season 2 title

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Choju made light work of Savemore as they swept the championship series of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Choju first blew out Savemore in Game 1, 114-66, last Thursday, and quickly wrapped up the series in Game 2 last Saturday, 64-58.

In a jam-packed gym, Choju fans brought down the house with their loud cheers after each basket in their last game. Although Choju won it all eventually, it was a close game unlike last Thursday as Savemore kept pace in the first half.

LEIGH GASES

The champion Choju team poses with their awards and with Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 officials during the awards ceremony at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai last Saturday.

Choju's lead was at an uncomfortable 2 points, 32-30, by the end of the first half. But Choju opened up the second half with a renewed vigor as they tried to escape the clutches of Savemore with a 3-pointer by Kaipo Dikito to make it 35-30.

A few attempts by Savemore came up empty and Choju's 5-point lead remained until Romano Vicente broke the ice to make it 32-35 three minutes later.

The cat-and-mouse game went on throughout, but Choju's more rugged and youthful team managed to hold on to a double-digit lead with less than 10 minutes left. Choju then began to pull further away and keep their double-digit spread.

Savemore's attempts at the basket became more and more inaccurate as the pressure spiked up while time wound down. Multiple turnovers also allowed Choju to capitalize and convert buckets and make it 51-40 with 9:28 left.

Choju continued to ramp up their intensity while Savemore ran to and fro to try and catch up to their ever-growing deficit but to no avail. With less than two minutes left, Choju continued their reign of terror with steals left and right and had Savemore choking on their dust.

Savemore's last hurrah at chipping away at Choju's lead was too little too late and they

See CHOJU on Page 15

Baby Geckos repeat as girls athletics champs

LEIGH GASES

Some members of the Saipan International School girls 9U/12U athletics championship team pose with their coach Pamela Walsh, right, and their perpetual trophy during the awards ceremony of the NMA/PSS All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Saipan International School Geckos dominated the girls 12U/9U elementary school division once again for a repeat in the NMA/PSS All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 last Friday night and Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

The Baby Geckos were comfortable on the track and made it their home as they put up stellar performances and accumulated the most points with 107 from 18 events.

Second place went to William S. Reyes Elementary School with 97; third was Koblerville Elementary School with 94 points; fourth was Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School at 62; fifth was Tinian Elementary School at 44 points; Brilliant Star School garnered 39 points; Garapan Elementary School collected 34 points; Oleai Elementary School was at 29; San Vicente Elementary School had 27; Isla Montessori Saipan had 14; Saipan

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